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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-008
Thursday
12 January 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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LD1201131889 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Israeli Air Raids—The Israeli Air Force attacked "terrorist" targets belonging to the Abu Nidal organization 11 and 12 January, according to Jerusalem and IDF radio reports. Both raids hit targets northeast of Sidon.

Voice of Lebanon radio confirmed that the raids targeted positions belonging to Abu Nidal's organization in the Majdalyun area, east of Sidon. The first attack was carried out by helicopters; the second by warplanes, which fired four air-to-surface missiles that destroyed the targets.

Hizballah-Amal Clashes—Amal forces began a "wide-scale" offensive against "Islamic Resistance" positions in Jba' the morning of 12 January, the clandestine Voice of the Oppressed radio announced. Voice of National Resistance radio had earlier reported a lull in the fighting as Amal fighters awaited better weather to resume their attacks.

PLO Affairs

The United States and the PLO should hold "high-level" talks to establish peace in the Middle East, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated in remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo. The PLO leader also told a Council of Europe delegation that the PLO will support the holding of elections in the occupied territories if they are organized by the United Nations, according to AFP.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent statement expressing willingness to negotiate under UN auspices, a PLO spokesman cited by Radio Monte Carlo dismissed this formula as a "new attempt to evade the international conference."

For Israel's part, Shamir's office stressed that the prime minister's statement was referring to the possibility of direct talks with Arab states, not to any kind of negotiations with the PLO, Jerusalem television noted.

In another development, Yasir 'Arafat held talks with British Labour Party foreign affairs spokesman Gerald Kaufman at a secret location in Tunisia, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported. Kaufman revealed afterward that 'Arafat had emphasized his respect for Israel's right to exist, his repudiation of violence against civilians, and his belief that there should be no use of arms.

Iraq

At a news conference in Paris, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz welcomed the "unified" Arab stand at the Paris conference on chemical weapons but noted that the conference's final statement does not "highlight" the problem as the Arabs wanted, Radio Monte Carlo reported. 'Aziz also described Syria's dominance in Lebanon as "impermissible" and declared that Lebanon is the responsibility "of all the Arab states", the radio added. According to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, 'Aziz told his Saudi counterpart at a meeting in Tunis that Iraq wants to send its troops to Lebanon to participate in the maintainance of security.

In a speech broadcast by Baghdad radio, President Saddam Husayn indicated that Iraq will release "a number" of Iranian POW's.

Egypt

Security forces have arrested one of the leaders of the "Al-Jihad" organization who took part in recent violence in 'Ayn Shams, MENA reported.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi ruled out the establishment of a coalition government and confirmed that the present government will continue in office, SUNA reported. He also declared that a delegation will visit Addis Ababa shortly for talks with the SPLA.

Morocco

King Hassan II held talks in Marrakesh with the UN special envoy on the Western Sahara, AFP reported. The king has told France's LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR that the referendum in the Western Sahara will be held in the way the United Nations wants, the agency noted. Hassan also admitted that he chose "the wrong road" by failing to meet with Polisario leaders earlier, adding that he decided to meet them because "every inhabitant of the Sahara is Moroccan and nothing stands in the way of meeting Moroccans."

Afghanistan

There is "unity and solidarity" between the mujahidin groups in Pakistan and Iran, a spokesman for the Iran-based factions affirmed in remarks reported by Tehran television and IRNA. He said the USSR's refusal to show flexibility deadlocked the recent talks in Islamabad, stressing that the mujahidin are prepared to continue the talks if the Soviets offer a "new and acceptable" proposal.

A commentary broadcast by Tehran radio attributed the stalemate in the talks to the Kremlin's insistence on maintaining its "economic and political interests" in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, in a report on the mujahidin's blockade of Kabul and other major cities, Moscow radio noted that the prices of essential goods have risen several times and that basic foodstuffs such as flour, fat, and butter are not available "at any price."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League To Discuss Libya, Lebanese Crisis

LD1101211589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1918 GMT 11 Jan 89

[By Nasir al-Tura]

[Text] Tunis, Jan 11 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Wednesday met, at his residence here, with Somalian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mohamed Ali Hamud.

Later on, he conferred with the Lebanese ambassador and representative to the Arab League here Sulayman Farah.

An authoritative source of the Kuwaiti delegation accompanying Shaykh Sabah told KUNA that during the two separate meetings, talks focused on topics to be discussed in the Arab League's foreign ministers extraordinary session due to be opened here tomorrow.

The League's conferees will allocate two separate sessions, the first one is to discuss the recent U.S. aggression against Libya and the second for the current constitutional crisis in Lebanon, the source went on.

Somalia, since last September, has been chairing the current Arab League Council's session.

On the other hand, informed sources at the League, told KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY that a sharp disagreement is currently taking place on who will represent the Lebanese side in the League's meeting, after the Lebanese ambassador here received instructions by certain Lebanese quarters not to take part in the meeting.

The Lebanese military government, headed by Michel 'Awn, had announced in a statement yesterday that it will boycott Tunis' meetings for what it called the "unrealistic" way in which preparations for the meeting were conducted.

'Uprising' Committee Meets in Tunis 12 Jan

JN1201112289 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, Jan.12, INA—The 7-man committee assigned with the follow-up of developments of the Palestinian uprising held a closed-door meeting here this morning.

The committee, whose meetings were attended by Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, discussed developments on the Palestinian arena following proclamation of the Palestinian independent state and assessment of the results of its meetings in 1988 and the visits it had made to capitals of the permanent member states at the UN Security Council.

The committee, emanated from meeting of the Arab League Council, comprises in its membership Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Algeria, Syria, Palestine and the Arab League secretary general.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges 'High-Level' U.S.-PLO Talks

JN1201070489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a news conference in Athens in which he said that one meeting between the United States and the Palestinians was not enough to reach any fruitful results and that high-level talks should be held between Washington and the PLO to establish peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat said the establishment of a Palestinian state is only a stone's throw away. He expressed his satisfaction with his talks with the Greek prime minister.

'Arafat on UN-Sponsored Elections in Territories

NC1101141589 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, Jan 11 (AFP)—Elections could be held in the Israeli-occupied territories provided they were organized by the United Nations, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has told a Council of Europe delegation.

Amid signs of a more prominent European role in efforts to find a solution to the Palestinian question, Mr. 'Arafat held two hours of talks with the 12-member delegation late Tuesday at Cairo Airport.

Delegation sources cited Mr. 'Arafat as saying he was prepared to accept U.N. control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip for a transitional period, the duration of which could be fixed in negotiations with Israel.

Shim'on Peres, leader of Israel's Labour Party, proposed last month that "free elections" in the territories could result in the formation of a "non-violent Palestinian leadership."

On the status of Jerusalem, the PLO leader said the Palestinian position was based on U.N. resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from all territories seized in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

But Mr. 'Arafat, cited by the delegation sources, said the city's status was negotiable and that measures should be taken to ensure that Jerusalem was "open to the faithful of all religions." He referred to the divided city of Berlin without elaborating. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Talks With UK Labor Party Official

LD1201020689 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0122 GMT 12 Jan 89

[By Chris Moncrieff, PRESS ASSOCIATION chief political correspondent]

[Excerpts] Shadow Foreign Secretary Mr Gerald Kaufman had a three-hour meeting with a "jovial" Mr Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, at a secret rendezvous in Tunisia tonight. Mr Kaufman had waited for three days at the British Embassy residence in Tunis for these crucial talks before being taken by car through the night to a hideout about 30 minutes' drive from the capital. Some feared that Mr 'Arafat would not turn up. But Mr Kaufman never doubted that the Arab leader—famed for his late-night meetings—would honour the appointment, even if he was two days adrift.

This is understood to have been regarded by the Palestinians as a key meeting in the quest for peace in the Middle East. For three hours they talked in a private house whose whereabouts Mr Kaufman says he will never know. The security around 'Arafat is so tight that very often not even his closest associates know where he is. [passage omitted]

Later a buoyant Mr Kaufman, speaking by telephone from Tunis, said: "He emphasized his respect for the right of Israel to exist, his repudiation of violence against civilians, and his belief that there should be no use of arms. He spoke of his determination that negotiations with Israel should be through an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations. And he expressed his appreciation of the role of the British Labour Party in these endeavours and asked me to thank the party leadership for the role it had played. He was very aware of what the Labour Party has done."

Mr Kaufman said that throughout Mr 'Arafat's demeanour was "jovial". He said he insisted that the British ambassador, Mr Stephen Day, and a number of embassy staff, including a note-taker should accompany him to the meeting. Also with them was Mr Ernie Ross, Labour MP for Dundee West, an ardent sympathiser with the Palestinian cause and chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party's influential Foreign Affairs Committee.

But although this meeting was seen at Westminister—by both Labour and some Conservative MPs—as a considerable coup, Mr Kaufman remained realistic about the achievement. He said; "I would not say that as a result of these talks things are looking more hopeful. But they are certainly not looking less hopeful. I asked him a whole series of detailed questions and he rejected any kind of half-baked solutions. I am now very clear in my mind as to 'Arafat's attitude and approach to these problems."

Mr Kaufman will arrive back in England tomorrow (Thursday) evening. He will brief the Labour leader, Mr Kinnock on his talks at the earliest opportunity. [passage omitted]

During his visit Mr Kaufman also had meetings with other senior PLO figures, and with Arab League leaders as well as minsters of the Tunisian Government.

'Abd Rabbuh Rejects Shamir Talks 'Formula'

JN1201064589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, said yesterday that the PLO rejects the negotiations formula proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and all such maneuvers. He said the PLO affirms the need to convene an international conference, which is approved by the international community.

It is worth mentioning that while speaking to the president of the European Parliament, who visited Israel last Tuesday, Shamir said negotiations could start under the auspices of the big powers or the United Nations provided these sides do not participate in deliberations.

The Palestinian official stressed the need for convening an international conference under UN aupices, with the active participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and with the presence of the PLO on equal footing with other parties.

'Abd Rabbuh considered the Israeli prime minister's statement a new attempt to evade an international conference and an indication that Israel is unable to quell the Palestinian uprising.

PLO's Sha'th, 'Abbas on Government, Future Moves

JN1101185089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Jan 89 pp 1, 6

[Text] Upon arrival in Cairo with a delegation which also included Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, to hold talks with officials, Dr Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said that the studies related to the formation of a Palestinian provisional government will be concluded within a week and will then be submitted to the PLO Executive Committee to decide on them by the end of January.

Sha'th also said: The provisional government will not cancel the work of the PLO Executive Committee, which will remain the political authority for the state. The government will become the executive power, while the PNC will remain the legislative power of the state. This situation will remain until the stage of establishing a state on Palestinian territory and then it will become a kind of party coalition.

He pointed out that the PLO is seeking to affirm the participation of Palestinians from inside [the occupied territories] in the provisional government. He said: We will also be concerned about the figures selected out of fear of Israeli oppression, expulsion, and deportation from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Therefore, we may resort to secrecy or select persons from among those who were deported recently to represent the Palestinians from inside.

'Arafat's political adviser said: The formation of a provisional government will not end the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, because the political efforts exerted by the PLO constitute a political struggle that goes along with the popular struggle until the establishment of the state.

He also said: We seek to develop relations with the EEC countries. Therefore, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will soon visit Spain and a number of Western European countries.

In other statements, Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, said his mission aims principally to inform Egypt of the improvement of coordination between Jordan and the PLO. He also said: One of the most important objectives for us at the current stage is to reach an international conference, because there remain no obstacles on our part. As for the other side (Israel), the United States must handle it.

Abu Mazin said the Arab summit is an urgent need during the current stage in order to affirm Arab solidarity and coordinate among the concerned Arab sides.

Abu Mazin said a meeting will be held in Tunis the day after tomorrow, Thursday, which will be attended by the [Palestinian factions] general secretaries, the PLO Executive Committee, and senior figures in the organizations in order to assess the previous stage and lay out the bases for the next moves.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Praises Paris Conference Statement

NC1101204789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1929 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, 11 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has praised the final statement issued by the conference on banning chemical weapons, which ended in Paris this evening.

Commenting on the statement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that it came in response to the request of the Arab states. He noted the reference in the statement to the UN Charter, the process for complete disarmament, and the final document of the UN General Assembly's extraordinary session on disarmament in 1978, a document which called for general and comprehensive disarmament under effective international supervision to ensure the right of all the states to security and peace.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that these references strengthen the theory of general and comprehensive disarmament and the banning of the production and use of chemical weapons. Thus, he said, the ban is no longer limited to chemical weapons only.

Meets With Israelis

NC1101195789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1618 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, 11 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met in Paris today with the Israeli delegation members who will be participating in a seminar on Europe's role in contributing to a settlement of the Middle East problem. The seminar, to be attended by the leaders of the peace movement and by Palestinians, is scheduled to meet in the French Senate on Thursday and Friday, at the request of the Israeli delegation.

The Israeli delegation includes Shulamit Aloni, head of the Citizen Rights Movement; Ora Namir and Luba Eli'av, Knesset members and members of the Labor Party; and Ya'ir Tzaban, Mapam party leader. All are members of the Knesset and the peace movement.

'Abd al-Majid will meet later this evening with the Palestinian delegation participating in the seminar under Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, and Ibrahim al-Sus, director of the PLO office in Paris.

Ghali Meets with Soviet Friendship Group Head

NC1101142189 Cairo MENA in English 1348 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, Jan 11 (MENA)—State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali met today with visiting Soviet head of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Association, Vladimir Vinogradov.

Dr. Ghali, who is also chairing the association on the Egyptian side, reviewed with his guest the association's activities.

Sends Message to Celebration

NC1201045589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed the strong friendship and cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union which the High Dam symbolizes. This came in a message from Dr Ghali to a celebration held at the Soviet Cultural Center in Cairo this evening on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the High Dam construction agreement between Egypt and the Soviet Union. The message was delivered on his behalf by Dr Majidah Salih, the deputy chairman of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society.

Dr Ghali said that the High Dam will stand in Egypt's modern history as a living and exciting testimony to creative cooperation and it will be an evarlasting symbol and indication of what can be achieved by joint efforts, sincere intentions, and honest hopes of peoples who believe in freedom and peace.

Dr Ghali described the friendship between the Egyptian and Soviet peoples as a friendship of principles, clarity, and confidence. He said that the High Dam is a magnificent picture of our people's dreams, made real through work.

In his speech Vladimir Vinogradov, minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Soviet Republic and chairman of the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society, reviewed the international circumstances which surruounded the construction of the High Dam, the U.S. refusal to assist Egypt in building it, and the Soviet Union's response to the request of the late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. He then noted the importance of the High Dam for agriculture, the economy, transportation, power generation, and even tourism.

Vinogradov affirmed that the High Dam embodies the strength, tenacity, and will of the Egyptian people. It is also a testimony to the strength of cooperation between the Egyptian and Soviet peoples.

Sidqi Sulayman, former High Dam minister, and Eng Mahmud Abu Zayd, chairman of the Dam Builders Association, also spoke at the celebration. They stressed the economic importance of the High Dam for the country and noted that it symbolizes the strength of the friendship between the Soviet Union and Egypt.

A number of Egyptian and Soviet officials attended the celebration.

Ghali Leaves for France, Central Africa 12 Jan

NC1201101189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Paris this morning on a 2-day visit to France. He will then visit Central Africa for several days.

Ina pre-departure statement, Ghali said he will convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to General Kolingba, president of the Central African Republic. He added that he will attend the third session of the joint Egyptian-Central African Republic committee on cultivating technical, trade, and economic relations between the two countries. He will also sign the executive protocol in a cultural agreement providing for an increase in scholarships given to Central African Republic students, as well as an increase in the Egyptian technical expertise extended to the Central African Republic.

It is recalled that there is a team of Egyptian doctors, engineers, and teachers working in the Central African Republic. Egypt and the Central African Republic have also signed a military cooperation protocol.

Zaki Badr, Jordanian Group Discuss Security

NC1101163989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation headed by Interior Minister Zaki Badr and a Jordanian delegation led by Staff General 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali, director of public security, held a meeting today. They reviewed aspects of security cooperation between the two countries and ways of strengthening cooperation within the framework of the fraternal ties linking the two countries.

Both parties agreed to formulate a common approach to intensify cooperation and coordination in combatting terrorism, drugs, and forgery. They also agreed to strengthen their cooperation in training technical cadres of Jordanian police in Egyptian police colleges and institutes. [passage omitted]

Austrian Chancellor Arrives on 5-Day Visit

NC1101150889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Austrian Chancellor Dr Franz Vranitzky and his wife arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 5-day official visit to Egypt. President Mubarak will receive the Austrian guest and will host a banquet in his honor at the Al-Qubbah palace tomorrow evening. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

NC1201093089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received Austrian Chancellor Dr Franz Vranitzky, who arrived in Cairo yesterday. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi attended the meeting.

European Parliamentary Delegation Departs 11 Jan

NC1101074289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0713 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—The European Parliamentary Council delegation led by Miguel Martinez, speaker of the Spanish Parliament and head of the liaison group of the European Parliamentary Council, left Cairo this morning. The delegation's 3-day visit to Egypt formed part of a tour of various countries, including Jordan, Syria, and Israel.

The delegation met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during his stopover at Cairo Airport yesterday.

In its tour, the delegation aims to find out the viewpoints of the various parties concerned on the Palestinian issue, as well as on the convocation of an international parliamentary conference to discuss proposals for peace in the Middle East.

UN's Marrack Goulding Arrives in Cairo 11 Jan

NC1101205989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1942 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding arrived in Cairo this evening on a 1-day visit. He stated on his arrival that his visit to Egypt is part of a tour of a number of countries in the area, including Lebanon.

He said that he will submit a report to the UN secretary general on 25 January regarding his talks in Lebanon on UNIFIL.

Goulding was welcomed on arrival at Cairo airport by Sayyid Abu 'Ali, the deputy director of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Al-Jihad Leader Arrested in Cairo 11 Jan

NC1101161089 Cairo MENA in English 1511 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, Jan 11 (MENA)—The security authorities arrested today defendant at large Hasan al-Gharbawi, one of the leaders of the "Al-Jihad" Organisation, who took part in the recent acts of violence in the region of "Adam" Mosque in 'Ayn Shams.

A joint force of the state security and the central security forces stormed the hideout of the defendant in one of the furnished apartments of 'Ayn Shams, and found with him two bombs and a gun.

The general prosecution is investigating with the defendant.

U.S.-Libyan Incident Considered 'Over'

JN1101212289 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Jan 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Circumstances!"]

[Text] The U.S. threats launched last month to strike what Washington called the factory for producing chemical weapons in Libya were a bad preparation for the international conference for banning such weapons that recently began in Paris. The threats were also a "political" demonstration to attract attention to the dangers of deploying these weapons on the eve of the historical conference attended by 141 states.

At the beginning of the threats campaign by Washington and the categorical denial of these accusations by Libya, Egypt swiftly called on the United States to exercise self-restraint and warned against the consequences of any military action on Arab-U.S. relations. The Egyptian initiative was timely.

Despite the initial provocations which led to the downing of two Libyan planes, it appears that the situation has been contained without any escalation, particularly with the transfer of the crisis to the UN Security Council at Libya's request. Libya will have a better opportunity to address the international community and refute the U.S. accusations.

Although the American escalation appeared to be premeditated within the framework of the circumstances under which the Paris Conference convened, it is certain that the nonimplementation of the threats has paved the path for resolving the problem or removing the misunderstanding through peaceful means and discussions, whether at the Security Council or through third parties.

We should note here what American sources affirmed in the wake of the incident on contacts held between the two sides through a third party to exchange pledges—Libya's assertion and commitment not to produce or use chemical weapons in exchange for the Americans' adherence and commitment not to attack what Washington believes to be a factory for such weapons. It has been reiterated that another Arab country—the UAE—played an active role in these contacts.

We can say that the "Arab side" played and is still playing a prominent role in containing the crisis and referring it to the legitimate echelons apart from military confrontation out of the realization that any unnecessary escalation would harm America's interests and image in the first place and affect its improving relations with the Arab world in general. This is at a time when circumstances are appropriate for resolving the oldest and most difficult issue—the Palestine question—with U.S. participation, a situation which has received the consent of all Arab parties.

If the objective of the Paris conference is to move the Geneva Convention on banning the use of chemical weapons toward another phase to ban their production and possession, we can consider the accidental incident between America and Libya—regardless of how wrong it was—as completely over without further repercussions, even if we assume that it was a preparation to strike at the alleged factory for producing these weapons, provided that the conference will not turn into a "court"—as President Mitterrand truly said—to convict states and will focus its attention on the crux of the issue for which it convened.

AL-AKHBAR Cited on Shamir's 'Latest Maneuver'

NC1201073089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 12 Jan 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Shamir's Maneuvers Will Not Succeed," AL-AKHBAR says: The latest maneuver by Yitzhaq Shamir is his declaration yesterday of his readiness to hold direct talks with the Arab states under the auspices of the United Nations or the two superpowers, provided that they do not interfere in the substance of the talks. The strangest thing about this offer is that it does not refer to the Palestinians, the party responsible for the key issue; namely, the Palestinian problem.

AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that unless the main party to the problem participates in the dialogue, the problem will not be solved. Shamir will continue to stumble in his attempts to invent new methods to gain time and to stop the wheel of peace. However, this time he will not be able to obstruct the march which has begun with great momentum and will not stop.

Libya

Tight Security Reported at Al-Rabitah Plant

BK1201014589 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 89 pp 1, 3

["Exclusive" report by Suraphon Thuan-ngoen: "Libya Plant 'Has Tight Security, Secret Facilities'"]

[Text] The alleged chemical weapons factory in Libya is a complex of ten plants with underground facilities that are heavily guarded by anti-aircraft batteries and troops, a well-informed source told the BANGKOK POST yesterday in a long-distance interview from Athens, Greece.

The source, who is close to several Asian workers who used to work in the complex at Al-Rabitah, disclosed that before the US bombing of Tripoli in 1986, about 100 huge tanks, painted olive green and believed to contain chemicals, were moved into the complex and buried underground.

"The process took seven days and nights," said the source, adding that security around the complex was immediately stepped up with over 100 troops moved in and anti-aircraft emplacements installed.

The source said that the chemicals were imported from West Germany, but he admitted that it was not known whether they were toxic.

The source who spoke on condition of strict anonymity disclosed that the Al-Rabitah project started in 1984. The site of the complex is in Gharyan, about 96 kilometres from the airport in Tripoli. The worker camps are located about 14 kilometres from the complex.

The source said that the prime mover behind the Al-Rabitah project was an Iraqi who was believed to be closely connected with Libyan strongman Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

"The Iraqi arranged for the hiring of workers of various nationalities who worked in the construction of the plants and installation of equipment. The workers came from Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, Denmark, Germany and Austria," the source said.

The project commenced around November 1984. The site of the complex is on about 50 acres of land, situated near Mount Mantrus which means "elephant".

The Thai workers were accommodated in a camp which used to house Bulgarian workers. More Thai workers were employed and the number rose to 1,300 at its peak. They were mostly carpenters, masons and ironsmiths.

Thai workers were supposed to work from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. six days a week with a day off on Friday. However, they were made to work overtime for two hours everyday because of the urgent nature of the project. On average, each Thai worker earned about 12,000 baht a month.

According to the source, the ground survey took about three months after which about eight Austrian supervisors were hired to oversee Thai workers in the construction of the foundation of the complex.

"The construction of the foundation was done entirely by Thai workers under the supervision of some 20 Austrians who used to be mercenaries," said the source, adding that steel superstructures were erected immediately after the completion of the foundation in mid-1985.

"The superstructures were designed by the Japanese and the materials came from Japan. Forty-five Japanese technicians arrived to supervise the construction. The Germans supplied the machinery, the Danish supplied dump trucks and cranes and the Italians did the interior decoration," the source disclosed.

The project temporarily bogged down in late 1985 because of a problem over payment with the contractors. It was again delayed briefly following the US air strike in April, 1986.

"By August 1988, the complex which consisted of ten factories, namely a laboratory, a lathe factory and an iron mill were 90 percent completed," the source disclosed, adding that the installation of machinery began in late 1986.

One worker who was employed in a factory in Iran during the reign of the Shah told the source that he saw a high-precision lathe machine in the complex similar to the type in the Iranian plant which was used to make warheads.

Security in and around the complex was tightened early in 1987. Visitors were not allowed into the site, except at the worker's camps and a curfew was imposed after midnight in the camps. "Only persons with authorisation were allowed to leave the camps after midnight," the source said, adding that blueprints were not allowed outside the construction site.

But life in the camp was relaxed and comfortable, according to the source. "There was table tennis, snooker and video shows. Liquor was also permissible," he said.

The source, however, added that ever since the US threatened to bomb the complex, accusing it of being a chemical weapons factory, more Libyan troops had been deployed in the complex and worker's camps.

Thailand has asked the United States to think about the "lives of the innocent" before taking any decision on whether to bomb the Libyan factory the US believes is making chemical weapons. The factory employs 700 Thais.

Foreign Ministry deputy spokesman Pratyathawi Tawethikun said that Thai Ambassador to the US, Witthaya Wetchachiwa, had conveyed Bangkok's concern to Washington.

The ministry was confident that the US would inform Thailand in advance of any action that might be taken against the factory so that the Thais who were working there could first be evacuated.

Diplomatic sources told the BANGKOK POST yesterday, however, that they did not think the United States would attack the factory at this stage.

The sources said that American diplomats had indicated that efforts would be made to persuade German and Japanese experts to stop assisting the Libyans at the plant.

Labour Department chief Siri Kewarinsarit said that his department was ready to help evacuate the Thais at the plant in Al-Rabitah if needed.

He said there are some 25,000 Thai workers in Libya, some of whom had been sent to work at the Libyan Ministry of Science and Technology in Tripoli.

"It's possible that some of these workers have been sent to work at the Al-Rabitah factory which is about 90 kilometres away," he said.

He said the workers included mechanics, technicians, gem cutters and other skilled labourers.

He would not say whether the Al-Rabitah factory produces chemical weapons, but said his department would try to prevent more Thai workers from being sent there.

The department has sent two labour attaches from Athens to Libya to draw up measures to ensure the safety of the workers.

A Thai Embassy official in Athens told the POST yesterday that the workers were scattered throughout the country and communications within Libya were poor, making it hard for embassy officials in Libya to ensure that the workers were safe.

The official said the workers are being briefed on what to do if the situation worsens.

Al-Talhi: U.S. 'Intention of Aggression' Remains

PM1201102389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jan 89 p 1

[Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish report: "Libyan Secretary of the General Committee for Foreign Liaison to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: U.S. Threat Continuing and Arab Stand Honorable"]

[Text] The proceedings of the Paris conference on chemical disarmament yesterday witnessed extensive maneuvers by France and some Western states to persuade the Arab states, or at least some of them, to go back on the demand that chemical weapons be linked to nuclear weapons.

When the attempts to split the Arab ranks failed, then maneuvers began on the nonaligned states' front to propose a formula that the Arabs would be forced to accept, that is, together with the United States, Israel, and Britain.

The Arab foreign ministers expressed their willingness to agree to make reference to French President Francois Mitterrand's UN address, specifically the clause linking the two issues. As a result of the Arab ministers' insistence, the French had to provide various interpretations to devoid that clause of its meaning and, consequently, its backing for the Arab demand.

Libyan Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison (foreign minister) Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his country appreciates the Arab states' collective support for Libya in the face of U.S. threats. He pointed out that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi thanked the Arab leaders for their supportive and solidary stand toward Libya.

On U.S. threats, Al-Talhi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Although U.S. officials have changed their language recently as a result of international pressure, their intention of aggression still stands, as their fleets are still facing our coasts.

He pointed out that the strong Arab stand and the international situation could force the Americans to think a lot before they attack Libya again.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: In Egypt's view, the conference is dealing with a very important disarmament issue, and the international community's eagerness to discuss this issue is both legitimate and desired.

He also said: As far as Egypt is concerned, we were among the first states to sign the 1925 protocol banning chemical weapons. We expressed our view in my address to the conference on Sunday. I pointed out that for national security considerations a balance between chemical weapons and the weapons of comprehensive destruction must be brought about.

People's Congresses March to Al-Rabitah

LD1101164389 Tripoli JANA in English 1441 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the Basic People's Congresses in Abu Aradah/Al-Jinan/ [place names as received] Nasmah in the Al-Jabal al-Gharbi Municipality marched yesterday to the pharmaceutical factory in Al-Rabitah closing ranks with the doctors, pharmacists and nurses who have held a sit-in there. Likewise the students and pupils of the educational institutions in Tripoli's municipality, Al-Niqat al-Khams, Al-Jabal al-Gharbi have marched to this factory.

The masses there held an emergency meetings discussed the US threats and provocations against the Libyan Arab people and its civilized achievements brought about by the great Al-Fatih Revolution. They stress that this medical products factory has been established in implementation of the resoltuions of the masses of the Basic People's Congresses to make available pharmaceuticals to the Libyan Arab people and build a medical industrial base in this country.

Basic People's Congress Begins Debates

LD1001174189 Tripoli JANA in English
1650 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 10 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In consolidation of direct people's democracy and in confirmation of the authority of the people, which no one but it has authority, the masses of the basic people's congresses began in various municipalities of great Jamahiriyah the sessions of the 2nd. Ordinary round of meetings for the year 1397 A.D.P. [after death of prophet]—1989 yesterday evening.

During yesterday's sessions, the masses of the basic people's congresses started debates on issues in their agenda, laws and regulations.

Holds 2d Session

LD1001220989 Tripoli JANA in English
1858 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 10, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The basic people's congresses, for the second consecutive day, resumed their sessions within its second normal round of session for the year 1397 A.D.M. [after death of Muhammad] coinciding with 1989 A.D.

They debated items of their agendas worked out in the previous round of sessions which included many matters, acts and bills.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Cyprus Socialist Party Leader

NC1001074989 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Dr Vasos Lissaridhis, chairman of the Cypriot Socialist Party EDEK and president of the House of Representatives.

Dr Lissaridhis has reiterated the Cypriot people's solidarity with and support for the Libyan Arab people against the U.S. aggression. He also renewed his condemnation of the premeditated U.S. attack on the Great Jamahiriyah, emphasizing the need to end foreign presence in the Mediterranean.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Malta's Mintoff

LD1101183089 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Dom Mintoff, former prime minister of Malta, and his accompanying delegation.

During the audience, the consolidation of peace in the Mediterranean Sea, the withdrawal of fleets, and the halting of U.S. maneuvers off the Libyan Arab coast were discussed.

There was a harmony of views on the necessity for the peoples and states of the region to undertake joint efforts to accomplish these aims and raise awareness of the dangers posed by the presence of these fleets, the harmful effects of military maneuvers in this sensitive region of the world on the peace and security of its peoples and states, and the threat to aerial and maritime navigation posed by these maneuvers.

Officials Meet With Arab League's Klibi

LD1101184689 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Relations met this afternoon with Brother Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the League of Arab States.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Great Jamahiriyah's high commissioner in Tunisia, the brother secretary expressed the Great Jamahiriyah's gratitude and appreciation of the stance taken by the Arab League and its secretary and, through them, the fraternal Arab countries, and their decisive position on the U.S. aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah. He also expressed the Great Jamahiriyah's gratitude and appreciation for the Arab League's solidarity with it against this aggression, as manifested in the League's condemnations of the aggressions and proclamations of solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah's people.

The Arab League secretary general expressed his great appreciation for the pan-Arab role of the brother leader of the revolution—the Great Al-Fatih Revolution—his sincere work for the prosperity and unity of the Arab fatherland and his continuous efforts to allow this fatherland to play its [words indistinct] role.

During the audience, the subjects to be addressed by the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, which will be held tomorrow, were reviewed. The meeting is taking place to discuss the U.S. aggression against the great Jamahiriyah. The two officials also discussed the meeting that will be held by the Council on the same day to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

Mauritanian Envoy Condemns U.S. Aggression

LD0801100589 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0750 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Jan (JANA)—Brother Muhammad Ould Sidi Haiba, adviser and special envoy of the Mauritanian head of state, has condemned the premeditated U.S. aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA on his arrival in Tripoli yesterday evening, he said that we have come to stress the stand of the Mauritanian people and its total solidarity with the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in facing the U.S. threats to which it is being exposed, and to express the condemnation of the Mauritanian people and leadership of this U.S. aggression. This is because we believe that whatever harms the Great Jamahiriyah harms all the countries of the Arab Maghreb and the entire Arab homeland.

Envoy Meets With Somali Foreign Minister

LD1101164589 Tripoli JANA in English
1446 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 11, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison has met this morning in Tunis the foreign minister of Somalia whose country is chairing the present session of the Arab League Council.

At this meeting, the topics to be on the agenda of the emergency meeting of this council tomorrow have been discussed to deliberate upon the US aggression against Great Jamahiriyah apart from the meeting to be held by this council to discuss the situation in the Lebanon.

During this meeting, the foreign minister of sisterly Somalia has reconfirmed the firm stance of his country alongside Great Jamahiriyah and its condemnation of US aggression.

Commentary Expresses Hopes for Bush Presidency

LD0901050589 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab
Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Gunboat diplomacy; the arms dialogue; the launching of military mobilization programs worldwide; the transferring of the means and agendas for wars of mass destruction from earth to the stars; the partitioning of the whole world between the white, accepted, trusted, and protected, and the black, hated, mistrusted, and hunted; the attempt to issue and impose whimsical rules that grant and forbid, accept and reject; all these are not the illusions of somebody imagining things that do not exist.

These have been, in short—very shortly—part of the elementary facts of U.S. political language since the United States appeared as a superpower on earth, and more precisely since World War II, in which the United States took the leading role through its use of the biggest propaganda machine, which exaggerated the U.S. role in this war. [passage omitted]

These perverted, elementary facts have increased to the point of becoming hallucinations since Ronald Reagan came to power, carrying on his shoulders a head poisoned with the mentality of an actor, a schizophrenic, a person mentally unbalanced between the possibilities of a normal person and those of an actor who lives the illusion of movies, with all their false exaggerations.

Proceeding from this sick and complex background, Reagan tried, from the first day of taking power, to use cinematic imagination as substance for the political language of a state that is supposed to be a superpower, and also—as its position in the world political map imposes on it—supposed to be a state with more responsibility and commitment with regard to international relations and world peace.

It was with the mentality of an actor and with the illusions of greatness and unbeatable power he lived in his imagination and in the old Western movies that Reagan dealt with the world. Thus the entire Reagan era has been a disaster from the outset. He believed that the whole world was a magnified Chicago located within the direct range of the U.S. cowboy, who could, at any time, use his quick-firing gun to hunt Red Indians relentlessly, until they put their hands up in a gesture of surrender and resignation to the unbeatable power. [passage omitted]

During the era of Ronald Reagan, who dealt with the whole world with a Rambo mentality, the U.S. elevated the level of terrorism from acts undertaken by mad or schizophrenic people to actions carried out by a state that is not any state. In other words, the Reagan government, in all its practices and political trends, practiced [words indistinct] organized state terrorism. [passage omitted] However, whatever the size and level of damage the United States caused to the peoples, against which it employed direct and indirect aggression, this highhanded policy has harmed the United States more than anyone else. This policy has destroyed U.S. credibility and prestige before the peoples—a superpower behaving with the mentality and logic of children. [passage omitted]

The forthcoming U.S. era, that of George Bush, can well benefit from Ronald Reagan's errors, errors that can be made only by madmen and [words indistinct]. Bush was present during this bitter experience for the United States and the world, he therefore knows and understand the mistakes of the Reagan era better. It goes without saying that the first thing to do in order to benefit from these mistakes is to fundamentally change the policy of dealing with peoples, the policy of fleets, cluster and vacuum bombs, a policy based on [words indistinct], devoid of any logic or understanding of peoples' issues. What also should be done first is to abandon definitively those highhanded policies that deny others what they accept for themselves and accept for others what they deny themselves.

This is not an attempt to interfere in the policy of George Bush, the forthcoming U.S. President, after the bitter experience with the sick [word indistinct] during the movie-actor era. It is just a realistic and [word indistinct] that the whole world cannot walk the road to genuine peace if U.S. policy does not change to one of dialogue on disputed issues, after the long period of the policy of [word indistinct].

Furthermore, there can be no peace through bilateral agreements between the great powers without the participation of all peoples. Peace is a matter of interest to all mankind, not just part of [word indistinct]. As for terrorism—and we are against terrorism (?completely)—it cannot come to an end if the efforts of the entire world, primarily those of the superpowers, do not focus on backing the cause of freedom, of giving justice to the repressed peoples struggling for their freedom and dignity.

Finally, the United States has been practicing state terrorism, but it has failed, despite all this, to stifle the voice of people and the cry of freedom. Let it now engage in the policy of dialogue. If it does so, surely it will recover the credibility lost during the Reagan era. However, if it fails to benefit from this lesson, in the process of which it lost so much, then it will remain [words indistinct] of the devil in the eyes of peoples.

What will the United States choose under George Bush? That is the question. We, at any rate, hope that the successor will not be worse than the predecessor because in such a case we may say farewell to peace.

Morocco

UN Special Envoy on 'Sahara Problem' Arrives

LD1101113989 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Casablanca, 11 Jan (MAP)—Hector Gros Espiell, the UN secretary general's special envoy on the Sahara problem, arrived in Casablanca yesterday. In a statement to newsmen upon arrival, Mr Gros Espiell voiced his pleasure at visiting Morocco and conveying UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's greetings to King Hassan II. He added that "his visit is part of the UN mediation on the problem of the Sahara." He noted "it is a very important moment in very positive circumstances."

He pointed out that his visit aims particularly to examine and monitor the current situation and to brief the UN secretary general on it," pointing out that "the future is open for a very positive development aiming at lasting peace in the region."

Mr Gros Espiell thinks that "recent developments allow the organization of a referendum for achieving a peaceful and a just solution in excellent conditions."

Mr Gros Espiell is accompanied by UN Assistant Secretary General Issa Diallo, and Moumoune Diakita, Mali's permanent representative to the United Nations.

Meets With King Hassan

NC1101174989 Paris AFP in English 1734 GMT 11 Jan 89

[All names as received]

[Text] Marrakesh, Morocco, Jan 11 (AFP)—King Hassan II held talks here on Wednesday with Hector Gros Espiell, U.N. special envoy on the Western Sahara, where Polisario Front guerrillas have been fighting Moroccan troops for 13 years.

Officials gave no details of the meeting, but said it was also attended by United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Issa Diallo and by Mali's Ambassador to the U.N. Noumou Diakite. Malian President Moussa Traore currently chairs the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Mr. Gros Espiell has been appointed by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to undertake a mission aimed at bringing about the implementation of a U.N. Security Council resolution providing for a ceasefire and a referendum on self-determination in the Western Sahara.

Last week, King Hassan held first-ever talks with top-level delegates from the Polisario Front, which has proclaimed a Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (S.A.D.R.) in the disputed, phosphate-rich territory and kept up a guerrilla war there.

In an interview for France's LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR weekly, the king said he had "chosen the wrong road" in failing to meet Polisario leaders sooner. He had decided to meet them because "every inhabitant of the Sahara is Moroccan and nothing stands in the way of meeting Moroccans."

He said the referendum would be held in the way the United Nations wanted.

The Sahrawis of Polisario, King Hassan said, "should know that as soon as they return home, they could benefit, like all the Moroccan regions, from the 'regionalization' plan currently envisaged. Today, they say they trust me, and I'm happy about it. Let them follow that trust through."

Earlier this week, the Moroccan monarch held talks with OAU Chairman Traore. The king has recently said he wants to take Morocco back into the OAU, after walking out of the pan-African organization in 1984 when it gave a seat to the S.A.D.R.

Mr. Gros Espiell, a Uruguayan diplomat, is scheduled to visit Algiers, Mali and Mauritania during his current mission to the region, which began Tuesday, a reliable source said when he arrived in Casablanca.

The U.N official was quoted as saying on arrival that "recent developments make it possible to forecast that the referendum will be held under excellent conditions for peace and justice".

Mauritania, also on Mr. Espiell's agenda, renounced its claim to a part of the Western Sahara in 1979 and recognized the S.A.D.R. in 1984. Polisario Front guerrillas have operated on Mauritanian territory, threatening the country's neutrality, in their desert war against Moroccan troops.

King Hassan II Receives Malian President 9 Jan

LD1001141689 Rabat MAP in English 1209 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Marrakesh, Jan 10, (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco received here Monday afternoon President of the Republic of Mali and Secretary General of the Democratic Union of the Malian People Gen Moussa Traore.

During the audience, King Hassan decorated the Malian president with the Great Mohammadi Wissam while Gen Traore decorated the sovereign with the Grand Cordon of the Malian National Order.

The monarch then held a one to one meeting with the Malian president. Afterward, King Hassan II hosted a dinner banquet in honour of Traore. The two heads of state exchanged addresses in which they recalled the secular relations between Morocco and subsaharan Africa and the present relations between Morocco and Mali.

Traore Departs 11 Jan

LD1101153189 Rabat MAP in English 1300 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Marrakesh, Jan. 11. (MAP)—General Moussa Traore, Malian president and secretary general of the Malian People's Democratic Union, left Marrakesh Tuesday morning for a private visit to Agadir (Central Atlantic coast), at the end of a two-day official visit to Morocco at the invitation of King Hassan II. In a statement before leaving the Marrakesh airport, President Traore said he had had "friendly, brotherly and fruitful talks" with King Hassan.

"The talks", he added, "focused mainly on the development and reinforcement of cooperation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Mali". They also included a review of African and international issues, he said.

At the bilateral level, he went on, special emphasis was laid on cooperation in matters of anti-locust struggle, desert encroachment, drought and food self-sufficiency. In Agadir and adjacent province of Taroudant, President Traore visited several industrial and agricultural units there, in the company of the governors of the two provinces and several highranking personalities.

King Hassan II Receives 'Arafat's Thanks

LD1001142089 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Rabat, Jan 10 (MAP)—King Hassan II has received a message from Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat expressing thanks and gratitude to the sovereign and hailing the efforts he made in favor of the Palestinian cause during the latest French-African summit.

'Arafat expressed thanks to the monarch for his sustained backing to the Palestinian cause, a backing that was reaffirmed by King Hassan II in his opening address before the summit as well as during the contacts he had with heads of delegations participating in the French-African summit.

Recalling that the Palestinian issue remains the Arab-Islamic nation's sacred cause, 'Arafat voiced thanks and gratitude to King Hassan II for the moves he made on several occasions and circumstances to defend the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and underlined the victories won by the Palestinian people thanks to the initifadah (uprising) against the Zionist occupation.

'Arafat, who recalled the important decisions made by the latest session of the Palestinian National Council (Parliament) in Algiers, asked the Almighty to cement Arab and Islamic ranks with a view to liberating Palestine and the holy city of Al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Sudan

Parties Discuss Forming Coalition Government

EA1101182289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1100 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Summary from poor reception] Khartoum, 11 Jan (SUNA)—The Ummah Party of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has endorsed the formation of a national government to embrace all political parties, including the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], the newspaper AL-KHARTOUM said today, quoting Ummah sources.

The paper said that the Ummah Party began contacting various political forces yesterday in an effort to find an acceptable formula. The intention was that the number of national and regional ministries and State Council membership should be reduced.

A DUP spokeman, Sid Ahmad al-Hasayn, welcomed the idea of a national government representing all the parties in Sudan, saying that if the government were to accept the DUP-SPLA peace initiative and form a broad based national government, then the trade unions would freeze or altogether drop their demands, for the sake of peace in Sudan.

In the meantime, Dr Hasan 'Abdullah al-Turabi of the National Islamic Front [NIF] refused to comment on the issue of a national government formation. He said in press statements yesterday that the NIF is conducting bilateral consultations with the Ummah and the Southern Sudanese National Party on the shape of the government.

He asserted, however, that a tripartite committee of the Ummah, DUP and NIF is currently looking into the country's national policies. The said committee is headed by Ummah Party Politburo member Idris al-Banna, who is deputy State Council chairman.

Al-Mahdi Denies Coalition Government To Be Formed

LD1101183189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1717 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 11 (SUNA)—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has ruled out the establishment of a national government and confirmed that the current government will remain in office.

Al-Mahdi, in a press statement released here today, denied the news circulated by some daily papers saying that the Ummah Party discussed ways of forming a new national goverment in which all the Sudanese political parties would take part.

Meanwhile, the prime minister asserted that contacts are currently underway on ways of achieving peace in the south. He added that a delegation representing the government and some political parties will leave shortly for Addis Ababa to continue dialogue with Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement 'SPLM' on the question of peace.

The Democratic Unionist Party 'DUP' the second major party in the national accord government of Al-Mahdi, had withdrawn on last Dec. from the government in protest against the refusal of the parliament to pass the peace agreement the party reached with the SPLM last Nov.

Taj al-Din on Possibility of Cease-Fire

LD1101193389 Paris Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Fighting continues in southern Sudan. For example, we have just learned that progovernment militamen, Anya Nya II, have just attacked an SPLA camp in Upper Nile Province.

The Democratic Unionist Party, despite having withdrawn from the government coalition, has been trying to convince the cabinet of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Sudanese prime minister, to officially adopt the peace agreement recently reached between the DUP and the southern guerillas.

But before an agreement can be reached, 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din—a member of the Sudanese State Council, who is in Paris—stated that before an agreement can be reached, a cease-fire must be reached on the ground. Here is what one of the leaders of the Sudanese regime said in an exclusive interview for RFI [Radio France Internationale].

[Begin recording] [Taj al-Din]. [Recorded in progress-]...the cease-fire, the first the state of siege must be lifted.

[Farida Ayari] So, this is the order of priorities which is a problem for you?

[Taj al-Din] Exactly. We say that we agree on the ground. We must have a cease-fire first and then lift the state of siege, because we cannot imagine that the state of siege can be lifted while shooting is still going on. That is the only thing. And, we are here, more or less, this is the technique. [as heard]

We want to make sure and give assurances to international public opinion that the National Assembly never rejected the peace plan; because peace is what all Sudanese are hoping for. They rejected some reservations, not the cease-fire. This is important. [end recording]

[Announcer] For Mr Taj al-Din—who has been interviewed by Farida Ayari—there are five points on which a consensus will have to be found between all the Sudanese. And according to him, this is possible.

[Begin recording] [Taj al-Din] The first point concerns religion and policies must be defined in this way: All Sudanese sons are equal when it comes to their rights. Second point: power sharing. All Sudanese have a right to share power according to the population of each region. This is a matter of political (?style), to govern the country in a decentralized way—regional and federal state.

This is a question of the distribution of wealth; a search for power, a natural search for power among the Sudanese sons, between the various Sudanese regions. And—the fifth point—this is a question of the size of Sudan. This is a large country, the largest in area—2.5 million square km, with 22 million people. Some 10 [presumably million] are refugees. Along with its neighbors, it has economic problems—drought for 3 years. These are Sudan's fundamental problems. [end recording]

Further on Protest to Chad Over Embassy Incident

EA1201112589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 12th January—Sudan has presented an official protest to the Chadian Government against the recent storming by some Chadian soldiers of the Sudanese Embassy in the Chadian capital of Ndjamena. In the protest, which was passed to the Chadian charge d'affaires in Khartoum, Sudan called on the Chadian Government to apologise officially. The incident took place last week when a Sudanese ministerial delegation was there to discuss means of improving bilateral links between the two countries.

Prime Minister Addresses Anniversary Rally

EA1101161589 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Medani, 11 Jan (SUNA)—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday addressed a political mass rally here organised by the Central Region government on the occasion of the country's 33rd independence anniversary. He said the recent incidents, which he did not mention, [as received] had revealed many gaps in democracy structure some concerning the [words indistinct] policies of the political parties, trade unions and others related to the performance of the press, indicating that his government was preparing general policies aimed at protecting democracy, realising peace and preserving social, economic and Islamic commitments. He said the realisation of peace necessitated the unity of the internal front and urged the people to support their Armed Forces at the present stage.

He said the agreement signed last November between the Democratic Unionist Party and the rebel movement in Addis Ababa has some posiive points and other negative ones which should be removed. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi added that his government would deal with all political forces not participating in the government with an [words indistinct] on a national basis. He said all Sudanese people should cooperate in solving the national issues, chief of which, he said, was the development, security, foreign policy, peace, and substitute legislations. [as received]

Meanwhile, justice minister and attorney-general, Hasan al-Turabi also addressed the festival, saying that political independence depends on the realisation of economic independence which, he said, is the vital issue for all Sudanese people. He called for the maintenance of a balance between our rights and duties.

Al-Mahdi Receives Eritrean Official 11 Jan

LD1201113489 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum Jan. 12 (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met here yesterday with the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front Unified Organizataion Omer Elburag. [name as received] Elburag briefed Al-Mahdi on the Eritrean factions viewpoints on the peace negotiations with the Ethiopian Government in the context of Sudan's mediation between the two sides. The Eritrean leader hailed Sudan's efforts that aim at consolidating peace in the Horn of Africa and in the continent as a whole.

Local Administrative Bodies Granted New Powers

EA1101205189 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Muhammad 'Abdallah, minister of state for local government, has announced that there is full coordination between the ministry and the regional governors on issues relating to the implementation of the local administration system, particularly in restoring confidence in mayors and arming their guards, in accordance with the directives issues by the Council of Ministers on local administration in the country.

He said that in order to guarantee the smooth implementation of local admdinistration so it can fully play the role expected of it, it has been agreed to grant the administrative organs in nomadic, seminomadic, and border areas full administrative, judicial, and security powers to enable them carry out their duties in these areas. He said the administrative organs in stable rural areas will also be granted security, administrative, and particular judicial powers. Limited administrative authority will be granted to administrative organs in areas of modern production at shaykh level only.

Proposals Made on Financing Wage Increases

LD1101201189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, (SUNA)—The committee formed by the government to discuss substitutes for financing wages and salaries increase will submit its report and recommendations to Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Transport Minister and chairman of the committee Mr Aldo Ajo Deng announced today.

He said in a press statement that the committee will discuss tomorrow in its final meeting the proposals presented by the committee members. He confirmed that the government is committed to implement this policy.

A proposal submitted during discussion on the increase of sugar price to 125 piasters, Deng said, adding that the real price of sugar from factory is 125 piasters. [sentence as received]

He pointed that the government new price will decrease support by government from 750 million Sudanese pounds to 250 million.

He stated that they agreed to increase fuel price and the imposition of taxes in the big investment projects and private cars in addition to decrease of the governmental (?defenses) [words indistinct]

The chairman of the committee said that they confirmed the importance of realizing peace in the country.

SUNA: Court Magistrates End 8-Day Strike

EA1101115989 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 11th January—Court magistrates of various categories throughout the Sudan decided to resume work as of today, Wednesday, ending an eight-day strike.

The Council of the Magistrates house yesterday issued a decision to this effect and decided the withdrawal of the judges resignations to be deposited at their council till the convocation of their general assembly, whose date has not yet been fixed. A reliable judicial source said the decision was issued after lengthy negotiations with the Supreme Council member, Mirghani al-Nasri, and the Magistrates Council, during which they reviewed all aspects of the judges problems.

The judges had submitted their resignations and stayed out of work since 2nd January in protest of the reduction of their payments as recommended by a ministerial committee.

University Teachers To Stage Week-Long Strike

LD1101180989 Khartoum SUNA in English 1704 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 11 (SUNA)—University of Khartoum teachers decided to stage a week-long strike as to start from next Saturday as the (?over) university administration did not meet their demands said chairman of the teachers trade union here today.

Dr. 'Ali 'Abdallah 'Abbas said their demands include rehabilitation of the university basic infrastructure, libraries, laboratories, independence of the university and tackling the issue of the new salary scale proposed by the government.

Dr. 'Abbas also pointed out to the weak financial funds allocated for scientific researches.

The chairman of the University of Khartoum Teachers Trade Union Dr. 'Ali 'Abdallah 'Abbas said they resume work for ten days after the after the first week-long strike and stage another two week strike as from the (?first) of next February in case that their demands have not been met. [sentence as received]

The Teachers General Assembly will decide what to do if an agreement was not reached with the university administration following the two strikes, he added.

Equatoria Governor Says Relief Situation Better

EA1101205389 Juba Sudan Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] The governor of Equatoria Region, Mr Morris Lawiya, stated in Khartoum that relief supplies are still being flown to Juba from East Africa. He pointed out that the situation in Juba has improved in comparison with the [word indistinct] situation in October and September. Governor Lawiya, who was speaking to the Armed Forces newspaper yesterday, said he supports peace efforts to end the civil war in the country.

Oman

Jordan Industry Minister Arrives for Joint Talks
JN0601135289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Muscat—Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' arrived in Muscat today to take part in the second meeting of the Jordanian-Omani Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation to begin in Muscat tomorrow. Trade and industrial cooperation between the two fraternal countries and means to strengthen and develop it will be discussed at the meeting.

The Jordanian side will be headed by Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba'; the Omani side will be headed by Industry and Commerce Minister Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali.

Economic Cooperation Discussed
JN0701173989 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Muscat, 7 Jan (PETRA)—Work of the joint Jordanian-Omani committee under Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' and Omani Industry and Commerce Minister Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali began in Muscat today. The committee will discuss enhancing economic cooperation and promoting trade exchanges between the two countries, particularly increasing Jordan's imports of Omani fish. It will also discuss increasing Oman's imports of Jordanian commodities, particularly medicines and vegetables as well as bolstering the private sector's role in promoting bilateral trade exchanges. The committee will also discuss matters pertaining to the establishment of a joint holding company and the conclusion of cooperation agreements on establishing joint ventures and land transportation.

2nd Meeting Concludes
JN0901211989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Muscat—The works of the second meeting of the joint Omani-Jordanian committee concluded today in Muscat. In the meeting they discussed means of promoting bilateral economic and trade cooperation in all possible ways to serve the interests of the two fraternal nations. The minutes of the meeting signed by Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' and Omani Industry and Commerce Minister Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali included a number of measures to promote and strengthen bilateral trade and economic relations.

PDRY

Foreign Minister on Ties With Neighbors, U.S.
PM1001121689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jan 89 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali by Zaki Musa in Aden "last Saturday evening"]

[Excerpts] [Musa] The PDRY has recently, or let us say in the past 3 years, pursued a policy different from the past. What conditions on the Arab or international levels have dictated this?

[Al-Dali] I do not believe that our present policy is different from or new to the YSP's foreign policy program, which is based on peaceful coexistence and international solidarity—peaceful coexistence with all the states of various systems and international solidarity with all the liberation movements working for their independence from world imperialism and Zionism. [passage omitted]

[Musa] What are the broad outlines of relations with the neighboring states, especially since there are unresolved border problems with some of them?

[Al-Dali] Obviously the existence of problems between neighboring states is not odd or strange. Such problems can occur at times, especially over border areas, but their occurrence is not the end of the world. So long as there is goodwill between the parties concerned and a desire to maintain good-neighborly and fraternal relations, any of the minor problems that emerge from time to time can be overcome, in order to establish a strong foundation of understanding with our brothers. The existence of such problems in the past and the tension they once caused does not mean that such relations should not exist. In fact the opposite is true: The exceptional conditions we experienced in the past might be a lesson to us not to allow such conditions to recur. [passage omitted]

[Musa] Contacts are being made at several levels to restore Egyptian-Syrian relations and Egyptian-Libyan relations. In fact many people are optimistic about the success of these contacts in the near future. In light of this, do we expect Egypt to take part in the next ordinary summit?

[Al-Dali] Some news agencies issued reports of an improvement in relations between sisterly Egypt and both sisterly Syria and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. We hope with all our heart that the rift between our brothers in Egypt, Libya, and Syria will be mended in order to enhance Arab strength and strengthen the pan-Arab and solidarity march, thus averting imperialist and Zionist schemes in our region. We have had enough conflict and estrangement. Let us move on to discuss our problems at the negotiating table. Let us sit together to discuss our problems within the framework of a single home. We will be pleased to see the restoration of relations between Egypt and Syria and Egypt and Libya. If Egypt's participation in the next summit is proposed, we will not hesitate to support its return to the Arab league.

[Musa] You have special relations with Egypt, Syria, and Libya. Can such a position be exploited to ease problems between these states?

[Al-Dali] As I said, obviously we will be pleased to see relations between these states restored, just as our relations with Egypt—as well as Algeria's and those of the other Arab states—were restored. We in the PDRY will spare no effort, however minor, in this regard.

[Musa] Have you made any efforts in this regard?

[Al-Dali] Until now we have not make any efforts, but we are ready and will spare no efforts.

[Musa] There have been reports of contacts being made to restore relations with the United States. What is the nature of these contacts, and on what level are they being made? Do you expect relations to resume in the near future?

[Al-Dali] I will content myself with what the [PDRY] leader said. (Minister al-Dali laughs)

[Musa] Do you expect relations to be restored?

[Al-Dali] Obviously there is no permanent obstacle to the restoration of relations with the United States. We are not against establishing relations with any other state so long as the reasons for severing relations have been, or are being, eliminated. We believe that international interests require the establishment of relations between between states, large and small. Regarding relations with the United States, we had diplomatic relations with it in the past, but they were severed for known reasons which there is no need to mention now. They are already documented. But I believe that nothing will prevent the restoration of such relations, provided we ensure that such relations are free from interference in our internal affairs or a return to the methods which the United States used against our regime in the past.

[Musa] When will relations be resumed?

[Al-Dali] I would leave this to the future. I cannot set a specific date.

[Musa] How true are the reports of U.S. conditions for the restoration of these relations?

[Al-Dali] I have heard nothing about such conditions. We do not base our relations with any state on conditions. We reject conditions.

[Musa] Some diplomatic circles in Washington have said that these conditions include the closure of Abu Nidal movement's offices in Aden.

[Al-Dali] Abu Nidal has no offices in Aden for us to close. Here I repeat once again that we cannot accept any preconditions, regardless of their form, imposed on us for the establishment or restoration of relations with any state. All we want is mutual respect for national sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Officials Address Status of Yemeni Jews

JN0901110489 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 6 Jan 89 pp 16, 17

[By Majdi al-Daqqaq]

[Excerpts] In a systematic media campaign that takes place nearly every year, the Israeli press and several pro-Israeli U.S. and European papers have started to raise the issue of what they call "the continued persecution of Yemeni Jews and the recent massacres".

The campaign has continued, and Israel is now explicitly threatening to launch a military operation to teach the YAR a lesson despite the many official denials by several YAR officials; despite the affirmation of Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to AL-MUSAWAR, that the Yemenis who adhere to the Jewish religion live in security and peace and exercise all their political, economic, and social rights; and despite the statement issued by World Jewish Federation President Moshe Nahum, who is of Yemeni origin, denying the massacres of the Jewish community in the YAR.

One can say that the campaign Israel launched last week on the state of affairs of the Yemeni Jews is a scenario for an old story that has been repeated annually since 1982, that is after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the departure of the PLO from Lebanon, the reception both parts of Yemen gave to the Palestinian fighters, and the establishment of a camp for them in an area near Sanaa. From that date, Israeli claims began to increase concerning the Jewish community's state of affairs. Israel sometimes claims that the Palestinians pursue the Jews in the streets of Sanaa, although the areas in which the Jews live are 1,000 miles from the Palestinian forces camp. At other times Israel claims that they are being massacred by exploiting an individual incident in which two citizens, one a Muslim and the other a Jew, fight over money, where the first attacks the second, and the attacker is brought to justice.

Resorting to such excuses, Israel threatened in 1985 to attack the Palestinian Sabra camp in Sanaa and one of the Yemeni islands in the Red Sea. Israel did not carry out its threat following an explicit Egyptian ultimatum.

But it continued to speak about the so-called persecution of the Jews. In view of the recurrence of these claims, YAR Information and Culture Minister Hasan al-Lawzi invited Arab and foreign correspondents to visit Jewish villages in Sa'dah. I was among those those who visited the area and I met with Jews and the other citizens. All those I met do not think about leaving their homeland. They can move with complete freedom and they freely practice their religious rites. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive statement to AL-MUSAWWAR, Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani refused to speak about the Israeli threats to Yemen. However, he affirmed that the Yemeni Jews live in security, peace, and tranquillity. The way of dealing with them has not changed at all, and they enjoy all their political, economic, and social rights. The Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that the firm Yemeni principle is based on the fact that these are Yemeni citizens who have no homeland other than Yemen.

Dr al-Iryani added that the talk about opening the door for emigration is rejected and cannot be discussed. They live in Yemen just like any other citizen. He noted that this firm stand stems from the Arab League resolutions calling for the right of any Jewish citizen who emigrated from Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, or any other country to Israel or any part in the world to return. We are committed to the resolutions of the Arab League Council.

Concluding his statement to AL-MUSAWWAR by telephone from his office in Sanaa, Dr al-Iryani said that we consider any talk about the Yemeni Jews an encroachment on Yemeni national sovereignty.

In a brief statement to AL-MUSAWWAR, Ahmad al-Shijni, Yemeni ambassador in Cairo, said that Yemen's Jews are from the old Himyarites, who became Jews a long time ago and lived before and after Islam with their brothers without fear or harassment. They never thought of departing except when the Zionists appeared and began to gather the world's Jews on the land of Palestine. He added: The Zionist agencies were able as a result of the inattentive rule of the imans to instigate the Jews to emigrate to the alleged Promised Land. He said: In 1977, the JERUSALEM POST published an interview with a Yemeni Jew who said that they—the Jews—lived in their country, Yemen, unlike any other place, with security and protected by the neigboring tribes. These tribes even fought each other to protect them. The Yemeni Jew added that the Yemeni peasants wished they were Jews to rid themselves of the imams' injustice. This was published by an Israeli paper. How can we talk now about oppressing the Jews? Ambassador Ahmad al-Shijni said: It is a fabricated clamor. In my assessment, Israel is trying to divert the world's attention from the Palestine question, which has become the focus of the world's attention. Ambassador Ahmad al-Shijni ends his statement wondering: What is the aim of these allegations? Are they aimed at covering up Israel's crimes in the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon? Their allegations confirm that they are racists, not us. They accuse nations of anti-Semitism and forget that we, the Arabs, are Semites. Generally speaking, Ambassador Al-Shijni says, we in Yemen are not frightened by this. Anyone doubting the conditions of Jewish citizens is welcome to visit Yemen to see for himself.

According to well-informed political sources, AL-MUSAWWAR can confirm that the Israeli campaign came this time after Yemeni officials had strongly rejected an Israeli offer through a third party to allow the emigration of Yemeni Jews to Israel in return for a huge financial deal. Although Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, refused to talk about this subject, AL-MUSAWWAR sources say that the Yemeni response was clear in this regard. The rejection was final, with an assertion that the Yemeni Jews, although they are few in number, are Yemeni citizens and that they can leave the country and come back whenever they wish. A senior Yemeni official was cited as saying that the Yemen Jews will not turn into new Falashas.

It was also said that Sanaa rejected Western threats and pressures to make it stop extracting and refining Yemeni oil discovered recently in the Ma'rib area and halt future exploration operations, including threats to halt aid provided by some Western states and funds to Yemen. One team of observers indicates that Israel's current impasse resulting in the Palestinian peace offensive has made it seek to distract world attention from peace efforts in the Middle East by creating tensions in the world, which it started by holding Palestinian organizations responsible for the recent crash of the American plane followed by the media campaign concerning the conditions of Jews in Yemen.

Another team believes that Israsel wants to show world public opinion the impossibility of coexistence among sects in the Arab countries and the futility of peace calls in the area at a time when Israel fears emigration.

A third team believes that there is an old "revenge" motive between Israel and the YAR. In addition to Yemen's rejection of its citizens' emigration—unless they wish to do so—Israel has not forgotten that Yemen allowed volunteers to go to Beirut in 1982 to defend the Palestinian revolution, later received Palestinian forces leaving Beirut at the Yemeni port of Al-Hudaydah, and announced as early as 1985 the establishment of the first Palestinian embassy in Sanaa and considered the PLO representative the ambassador of Palestine in Yemen.

Nevertheless, the Israeli allegations are only a clamor, which will end like the previous ones, although it is not ruled out that they might reappear in other forms.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Islamic Affairs Council

JN1101200089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Speech delivered by President Saddam Husayn to delegates to the second general conference of the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs during a reception in Baghdad on 11 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] May God help me. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Dear brothers, my words, no matter how I attempt to make them accurate and precise, cannot express, on behalf of the great Iraqi people and in my name, the great affection and appreciation that we harbor for your noble stands on the issues of humanity, and I am not saying the issues that are of concern to the Arab nation only or those that are of interest to the Iraqi people only.

Before going any further in what I want to say, dear brothers, I must comment on the humanitarian call replete with good motives made by two of our brothers and sisters attending this meeting involving the launching of an initiative by Iraq to release a number of prisoners of war or the prisoners of war so that we set an example for the significance of the values cherished by Iraq, considering that it is a part of a larger nation; namely, the Islamic nation.

Despite the fact that you know and that the brothers and sisters attending the meeting know that there are rules governing relations among states—rules that have become well-known and established as manifestations of the human effectiveness and convictions contained in charters binding nations to tackle such a situation, we, in response to these sentiments, will release a number of Iranian prisoners of war equal in number to your number to show respect for you. [applause]

Dear brothers, let us go further to tackle other issues, despite the fact that I do not want to give a lengthy speech. However, at this esteemed meeting, I find myself duty-bound to say what I believe that might be of use to all of us, as I benefited a great deal from you.

According to all material and physical criteria, considering the foreseeable and tangible givens, Iraq was supposed to have been defeated by the armies of the Iranian regime. This was the outcome expected by many who are concerned with what is called military strategy. In accordance with the simplest calculations, the ratio of combatants was four to one in favor of the Iranians. These are the material and physical criteria according to which subsequent conclusions were drawn as regards the reasons for the failure to defeat Iraq.

From the beginning, we knew and were certain and dead sure that we would not be defeated. This belief and certainty were prompted by the fact that we were vindicating right. The feeling that one is vindicating right gives one a very strong and genuine faith embedded in the conscience. Since the beginning, we sought to avoid an evil prepared against the Islamic and Arab nation. We sought to fend off this evil in the best possible manner and in an uncostly manner. We attempted to do this through various ways. This also involved the writing of messages which I myself wrote in my own handwriting, thus sparing the Foreign Ministry the task of writing messages, as usual, to draw the attention, warn, and hope, in a certain measure, that the Iranian rulers must not harbor delusions or launch an aggression against Iraq, as we would respond to their aggression if that aggression materialized and also since legitimate defense is a right enshrined in all norms and rules of mankind, be these norms and rules man-made or heavenly.

Before the outbreak of the war, we only received one reply filled with swear words and the slighting of opinions; all the documents proving this are here and documented. I do not want to give a lengthy speech. [passage omitted]

In the latest speech that I made, I congratulated the Iraqi people on peace. I also congratulated the Iranian people on the attainment of peace. [applause] When you went to Iran or met with any Iranian officials, perhaps they talked in an unfriendly manner about us with you. However, brothers, facts remain facts, especially facts that are registered and documented. They committed horrendous mistakes which cannot be viewed as mere mistakes. These mistakes draw our attention to our human and Islamic responsibilities toward the Iranian people, not in terms of custodianship or in terms of interfering in their internal affairs—nay, this is prompted by the human duty to enlighten the one who does not have the disposition for guidance.

The killing of prisoners of war is a firm course enshrined in the Iranian conduct witnessed throughout the war. Moreover, the mutilation of prisoners of war be they alive or dead is also a claim that can be substantiated with proof and evidence that can fill them with shame. This proof and evidence are documented. The Iranian opposition spoke about some of these pieces of evidence and announced them abroad, providing documents and pictures. It is not we who talked about these pieces of evidence. This pertains to the cutting of tongues, to the cremation of martyrs' bodies after killing them when they were in shackles, and so on and so forth.

After the liberation of Al-Faw, we found the bodies of our martyrs cast aside in the open air 1 or 2 meters from the place of sitting, sleeping, and eating of Iranian soldiers. They have not bothered to bury these bodies. [passage omitted]

I would like to tell you a real thing: All the Iraqi Armed Forces commanders without exception were very upset when Iran accepted Resolution 598 because the Iranian forces were defeated and the Iraqi armies were chasing them in part of Iranian territory. Some of them viewed the matter technically, and others recalled the Iranian rulers' haughtiness and arrogance and wanted to take revenge. Yet others remembered the convoy of tens of thousands of Iraqi martyrs who were killed for no reason. However, we stopped them. We said the target is not how many Iranians we kill. We did not wish a single Iranian to be killed. The target is to ward off evil from ourselves and Iran. When peace is achieved, evil will be warded off from Iran because the Iranian people were afflicted by a policy under which they paid a dear price in the form of souls, property, and everything. We stopped the Iraqi armies and pushed them back to their positions, leaving Iran its territory and giving it a chance to reconsider its stands by which it was much misguided and under which it deviated from facts and truths.

Brethren, I believe that we, Muslims, all of us, whether Arabs or non-Arabs, are duty-bound to study part of the grudge we sensed in the Iranian personality against the Arabs and to explain the reasons for this grudge in order to help them guide themselves to the true Islamic religion. [applause] We are convinced, and I do not think this conviction is confined to me but a conviction that we learned from you and read in your books, that the one who hates Arabs hates Islam. [applause] [passage omitted]

Therefore, if the grudge that made the Iranians burn the prisoners of war after tying their hands and shootimg them dead is not uprooted, the Iranians will not be guided to the light of real Islam. We should say without flattery that Islam swears at nobody; a Muslim swears at nobody. How if the caliphs are cursed! I do not understand how someone who says he is faithful and religious can curse others. [passage omitted]

This is then the depth of our duties, brethren. This is the depth of our brotherly and Islamic duties toward the Iranian people. It is our duty to understand the problem and deal with it through brotherhood, dialogue, and communication. However, we will ward off harm, whether human or religious, when it is directed against us. With God's help and as you wish, when you carefully study our behavior you will find that we bear no grudge against the erring or deviating ones in Iran, even when we are in this position. We thank God for this morning and evening and every moment. You will find that we are not harboring grudges despite the depth of the tragedy the Iranian regime's behavior left in our hearts and in the society. You will also find that we care for peace as much as we care for the pupils of our eyes. [applause] We covet nothing in Iran, but allow me to say that we will not allow anyone to covet our land, security, or anything. [applause]

I wish you permanent peace everywhere in the lands of Muslims and even in the world. As for us, we cannot replace you, but we believe we are duty-bound to always recall the spirit of the Islamic mission and to apply it in the society in a manner that pleases God, His prophet, and the good people. [Applause] In your country Iraq, laws were legislated. According to these laws even the mentally deranged receive salaries. The widow, orphan, and disabled also receive salaries. We believe that this trend expresses the spirit of the Islamic religion. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Holds News Conference in Paris

JN1101172089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, 11 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the Iraqi delegation and the rest of the Arab delegations attending the Paris conference on banning chemical weapons have done their best to positively, constructively, and responsibly contribute toward the attainment of positive results at this conference.

At a news conference held here today at the UNESCO building attended by a large number of correspondents of Arab and foreign newspapers and news agencies, the minister added that the stand of Iraq and other Arab parties sought to draw the attention of world public opinion toward the special situation in our region. He noted that the Arab states have displayed their eagerness to preserve world peace and security and contributed to all international efforts to bring about peace in this region and in the world. He went on to say that the Arab states have also participated in all international conferences to serve this objective.

The foreign minister stressed that there is a special situation in the Arab region—a situation represented by the possession of nuclear weapons by one party. He affirmed that this party has not signed the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. This party has also refused to help realize peace on the basis of UN resolutions—a matter which threatens security and peace in our region, the minister said. He indicated that the issue of disarmament and weapons of mass destruction must not ignore this point to which we attempted to draw the attention of the international community.

Tariq 'Aziz said: "We spoke to the industrialized nations from the Eastern and Western blocs in a constructive manner. When these nations discuss this issue, they must consider this special situation in the region".

The foreign minister added: "We share with the group a desire to see this conference and comprehensive disarmament talks succeed."

As for the Iraq-Iran negotiations, the foreign minister said: "I have heard statements made by the Iranian foreign minister on this issue. I find it regrettable that he provided false information and mistaken assessments on the current status of the Iraq-Iran negotiations."

The minister added that the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council know that Iran is the party responsible for this status. He indicated that the agreement to hold direct negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary general was made for the sake of reaching an agreement on measures and timetables for implementing Resolution No 598.

Tariq 'Aziz said the Iranians rejected direct talks right from the beginning under flimsy pretexts with the aim of launching a propaganda campaign against Iraq. They did not come to negotiate in a realistic, constructive, and fruitful manner that would help both sides reach an understanding and agreement and attain the final goal—a just and lasting peace between the two countries.

The foreign minister added: We sincerely tried to explain to them that Resolution 598 is a peace plan, and not an arena for a political battle between the two sides. This plan is aimed at reaching a comprehensive and lasting peace between the two peoples and the region's peoples.

He indicated that in the three rounds of talks, two of which were held in Geneva and another in New York, the aim was to reach an understanding with the other party on every clause in Resolution 598 and its ultimate goal. We stressed that peace means bilateral agreement based on respecting the legitimate rights of each party and its right to live peacefully in accordance with international law regulating ties between neighboring countries.

The foreign minister expressed his belief that Iran is not ready for peace and that it accepted a cease-fire under special circumstances that are known to all. These are the successive military defeats in April, May, and June last year.

The foreign minister added that following their acceptance of a cease-fire, the Iranians did not show their readiness or desire to reach a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the dispute, and embarked on a propaganda war in place of the military war on which they insisted for the past 8 years.

The minister stressed that Iraq is now ready, as it has been since last August, to continue the Geneva negotiations under the UN secretary general's auspices. It is also ready to implement Resolution 598 in letter and spirit because Iraq has no problem with peace and always wants peace with Iran.

Asked by a reporter how the final statement of the conference will deal with the special situation in the Middle East and Israel's possession of chemical weapons, the foreign minister said the Arab and nonaligned states' delegations tried to present formulas commensurate with this issue, indicating that there is some sort of understanding, and the draft statement reached by the conference's general committee last night was not on the aspired level because it dealt with the issue in a general way.

Regarding Iraq's acceptance of the draft statement, the minister said: Iraq came to the conference with a sincere desire to bring about its success, attain the desired goal, and work constructively with the industrialized and nonaligned groups in order to give a greater importance to this issue.

The foreign minster indicated that the international group will continue its cooperation at the United Nations and Geneva in order to discuss disarmament and reach satisfactory results, stressing Iraq's desire to continue its cooperation in this direction.

Answering a question on Shatt al-'Arab, Tariq 'Aziz said: Two things are related to this issue. The first is the legal status of Shatt al-'Arab. Iraq suggested that this would be discussed later and not at the beginning of the negotiations because this important waterway was closed at the end of the war. He noted that Iraq asked the UN secretary general to dredge Shatt al-'Arab and prepare it for navigation without encroachment on the legal status of it. This topic will be discussed later on.

The foreign minister noted that the Iranians rejected this and tried to impose conditions that Iraq should accept the 1975 agreement before the United Nations embarks on the work to prepare Shatt al-'Arab for navigation. 'Aziz affirmed Iraq's rejection of this condition. He noted that Iraq explained to the UN secretary general and his assistants that dredging Shatt al-'Arab is in the interest of the two sides and that the two sides will benefit equally from this vital waterway as in the past. Tariq 'Aziz stressed that Shatt al-'Arab is Iraqi and falls under Iraq's complete sovereignty since ancient centuries and that it should remain under this sovereignty.

The foreign minister said that Iran torpedoed the 1975 agreement through subsequent violations. He added that Iraq's sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab does not mean that Iran will not use this waterway in the future because it used it in the past while it was under Iraqi sovereignty.

On Iraq's participation in the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis, the foreign minister said that Iraq will take part in the meetings that are scheduled to discuss the situation in Lebanon out of its belief that the situation in Lebanon constitutes a big danger to pan-Arab security. This should prompt the Arab states to shoulder their full responsibilities toward this situation and to confront the unilateral domination of one Arab country—that is, Syria—over the Lebanese territory. At the same time, he noted Iraq's readiness to work with the rest of the Arab parties to resolve the internal problems facing Lebanon to restore its unity and independence. He affirmed that this represents a comprehensive Arab responsibility in harmony with the Arab League Charter.

Answering a question on the unified Arab stand during the Paris conference, Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq suggested the convening of a meeting for the Arab foreign ministers at the beginning of the conference to reach a formula for a unified stand, as Iraq suggested—that is, Egypt's participation in this effort. He expressed his appreciation for and pride in this stand and in Egypt's role in it.

Answering a question on the 1975 agreement, the foreign minister said that Iraq has explained its stand regarding this agreement since the beginning. He added that the agreement no longer exists because the Iranian side violated the agreement for 10 years—in 1979, 1980, and afterward. This unilateral violation made the agreement nonexistant.

On the exchange of prisoners of war, the foreign minister said that the Geneva Convention and its Article 118 call for the immediate release of prisoners of war after the cessation of military operations. Four months have passed since the cessation of these operations, and the Iranians still insist on accepting the Geneva Convention of 1949 as they rejected the exchange of the prisoners of war. He added that when we reached with them a definite agreement in Geneva to exchange approximately 1,500 prisoners of war from each side, they did not respect this agreement and cheated in the number exchanged. They then stopped the exchange process.

Concluding, the foreign minister said that these matters should be discussed during the negotiations in a realistic and practical way to reach an agreement on them.

Paper Cited on Iranian Military 'Concentrations'

JN0801122189 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 8, INA—An Iraqi paper stressed today that Iraq, which scored victory by the sacrifices made by its sons, would show no leniency.

AL-JUMHURIYAH, in an editorial today, said that Iraq would not be lenient on Iranian concentrations, mobilization and threats.

Iraq would not accept as well any manipulation of Resolution 598, AL-JUMHURIYAH said, mentioning that Resolution 598 was a clear-cut, balanced resolution that was after realizing genuine, comprehensive and lasting peace and not only a breath-catching truce.

If the rulers of Iran were willing to obtain, through their suspect attempts, political gains to make up for the military defeat they suffered at war fronts, AL-JUMHURIYAH said, Iraq "opposes these suspicious bids propagated by some notorious circles."

These circles were prompting and encouraging the rulers of Iran through various ways and means, AL-JUMHURIYAH remarked.

Resolution No. 598 was not adopted to be implemented by Iraq only, but by both sides to the dispute, AL-JUMHURIYAH said.

Application of Resolution 598 could not be done according to the will of the Iranian regime, neither could it be implemented far from the negotiating table or in a selective manner, AL-JUMHURIYAH said.

As for Iraq's stand on Resolution 598, AL-JUMHURIYAH mentioned, "it emanates from the spirit and letter of Resolution 598 and the essence of its items as well as from the spirit of international laws, conventions and norms."

Accusing the Iranian rulers of hindering the direct negotiations, AL-JUMHURIYAH said "Iraq views with suspicion stands, tricks and open aggressive practices of the Iranian rulers."

All Planes Return After Raid on Abu Nidal Target

TA1101201989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The Israeli air force attacked a terrorist target of Abu Nidal's organization northeast of Sidon this evening. All our planes returned safely. This is reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

IDF Communique on Raid

TA1201084689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] This is the IDF spokesman's communique: Air Force planes this morning attacked a terrorist target belonging to Abu Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] organization northeast of Sidon. All our planes returned safely to base. The target that came under attack served as a planning and launching base for Abu Nidal's organization. As said, all aircraft returned safely.

Shamir's Office Says Talks With PLO Not Implied

TA1101203789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] A source in the PLO's top echelon in Tunisia welcomed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement that Israel would agree to hold peace talks under the auspices of the United Nations or the superpowers. The PLO source called these statements an important change and a step in the right direction.

The Prime Minister's Office pointed out this evening that Yitzhaq Shamir was not referring to the commencement of any kind of negotiations with the PLO; his intention remains direct talks with Arab states.

Shamir Repeats Acceptance of UN Role in Talks

TA1201093889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning reiterated his position that Israel is ready to accept some formal UN participation in the political process in order to start direct negotiations with the Arab states. At the same time, the prime minister made it clear that the United Nations will not be involved in the content of the negotiations.

In a meeting with U.S. Senate and Congress aides, the prime minister cited the Iran-Iraq talks convened by the United Nations as an example of the model Israel would be willing to accept in the region.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the prime minister has expressed the hope that during his forthcoming visit to Washington he will find a path to cooperation with the new administration along the lines of the relations between Jerusalem and Washington during the Reagan-Shultz era.

Moshe Arens Discusses Chemical Weapons, PLO

PM1101090489 Paris LE FIGARO in French 7-8 Jan 89 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Stephane Marchand—date, place not given]

[Text] [Marchand] Do you regard the air incident between the United States and Libya as an American provocation?

[Arens] I do not think it was a provocation. But I know that this kind of thing can happen when planes of two different nations are flying in the same zone without coordinated air traffic control, especially in view of the state of relations between Libya and the United States.

[Marchand] Do you think that that incident was a way of preparing to bomb the Al-Rabitah chemicals factory?

[Arens] No, I do not think such preparation was necessary. Your question presupposes that the Americans were indeed planning such an attack. I know nothing about that. But even if that were the case, Wednesday's clash would have been pointless.

[Marchand] If the Al-Rabitah installations are really producing chemical weapons, do you not think there are other solutions than the destruction of the factory?

[Arens] In 1981, we bombed the Osirak Iraqi nuclear reactor. We think that if we had not done so, the Iraqis would very probably have used nuclear weapons in their conflict with Iran. The fact that they used chemical weapons confirms that hypothesis. In this sense, the destruction of Osirak did not just benefit Israel but the whole world. I do not know whether a U.S. attack on the Libyan chemical installations would have the same effect. But I presume that the Americans have thought about it carefully.

[Marchand] Is the proliferation of chemical weapons a new phenomenon in the Middle East?

[Arens] The most worrying thing is the use of these weapons. They have been used on territory close to ours. And they have been used by countries that repeatedly say that they are at war with us. Israel is therefore particularly concerned.

[Marchand] Is it really possible to monitor the production of chemical weapons?

[Arens] If the biggest nations tackle this, it can be achieved. We were very disappointed to see that the use of chemical weapons and the death of thousands of civilians, like the Kurds in Iraq, did not spark off any real reaction in the Western countries. The Paris conference is the first practical recognition that these weapons are contrary to the standards of civilized societies. The task is not a simple one.

Officially they are "chemical industries" and not weapons factories. The main ingredients seem innocuous. The companies that supply the equipment and some raw materials are perfectly legitimate: Moreover, most of them have their headquarters in West European countries. They are therefore not very easy to monitor. But if the civilized world wishes to do so, it can.

[Marchand] But do you not think that if the Arabs have decided to equip themselves with a chemical arsenal, it is to counter excessive levels of Israeli arms?

[Arens] No, it is other countries that have suffered from chemical weapons. The Iraqis used them against the Iranians, and the Libyans used them in Chad. There is no link with Israel. It is possible that some Arab states used them thinking that one day they might use chemical weapons against Israel. I hope that that is not the case. The five wars that we have suffered since our state was created in 1948 have all been wars of aggression against Israel. I do not think that the Arab leaders really fear that Israel might attack them. It is the Arabs who are once again thinking of attacking Israel one day. If they are equipping themselves with chemical weapons, it is probably with this in mind.

[Marchand] Many people are comparing the present atmosphere in the Near East with the tension that gripped the region before the 1973 Yom Kippur war.

[Arens] The Near East is a very tense region, it is a very volatile region of the world. Israel is living in a difficult environment. I think that many people in Western Europe do not realize that our state is surrounded by totalitarian countries. However, Western Europe should know that totalitarian regimes produce instability, hostility, and violence.

[Marchand] Surely war is not imminent?

[Arens] You never know.... You know, before the 1973 war many Israeli leaders said that there would not be another war for 10 or 20 years. I think it was even Moshe Dayan who said that.

[Marchand] In Paris, you will meet with the leaders of a number of countries that might participate in the Middle East peace process. What do you intend to tell them?

[Arens] I am going to meet with the Egyptian foreign minister. Egypt can help to encourage the peace process in the region. But the representatives of other Arab countries are, as far as I know, not prepared to meet me.

[Marchand] The U.S. decision to reopen dialogue with the PLO has created a new situation. Do you now have new proposals in response to that?

[Arens] The feeling in Israel is that that decision was a mistake. The United States has abandoned its own strategy against international terrorism. The terrorists must not be recognized, nor must contacts be established with them because that is likely to be interpreted as recognition of legitimacy. Instead of encouraging the struggle against terrorism, such an attitude could encourage further acts of terrorism, and further acts of violence....

For 25 years, the PLO has been the main international terrorist organization. That movement has cooperated with many other terrorists. For instance, the Italian Red Brigades. That is why we think that the U.S. initiative is not a positive step. But we know that the United States thinks differently. I will shortly meet with the U.S. secretary of state, and we will discuss it.

[Marchand] There are many examples in history of terrorists who have abandoned terrorism. Why should this not be true of Yasir 'Arafat, who has just publicly renounced it?

[Arens] It is always difficult to predict the future, but, in view of the PLO's terrible past, I am not sure that the historical parallel is justified. I think that the PLO has perpetrated some of the worst atrocities the world has known since World War II.

The main thing is not what the PLO says, but what it does. For the time being, there is no reason to think that the PLO has stopped being a terrorist organization.

We had an example of that the other day from Mr 'Arafat himself. Mr 'Arafat mentioned the case of some Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria who had spoken of ending the violence in the territories to help the peace process and start negotiations. 'Arafat then said that anybody saying such things would be exposed "to his people's bullets." He said that the PLO would know how to deal with such people. If that is not terrorism....

[Marchand] With regard to terrorism, surely 'Arafat's problem is his inability to control all the PLO elements, notably the most extreme?

[Arens] The PLO is, in fact, a constellation. It is a labyrinth of 20 or 25 separate organizations, some of them have broken ties with the PLO, others have returned to it, others have such ambiguous relations that it is difficult to say whether or not they are part of the PLO. I am sure that there is a deliberate desire to create confusion.

From the outside, it is therefore difficult to say who is who, whether the organization is trying to prevent its members from engaging in terrorism, or whether it is encouraging them to engage in terrorism.

Mr 'Arafat is trying to make people believe that his only concern now is the peace process. But I think that when he threatens the Palestinians in the region who want to talk peace, his attitude is far from peaceful.

[Marchand] In the occupied territories, how can you differentiate between terrorism and liberation movement?

[Arens] I think that the definition of terrorism is very clear. They are people who deliberately attack men, women, and children, like the recent horrible example of the destruction of a Pan Am plane over Scotland by a bomb.

[Marchand] Do you think that Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories are fighting a liberation war when they stone Israeli targets?

[Arens] It is difficult to talk of a liberation war. The victims are mainly civilians driving along the roads. The victims are civilians, women and children, seriously injured by stones and terribly burned by Molotov cocktails. Sometimes military vehicles are burned too. But most of the violence is against civilians.

[Marchand] Do you think that the stone-throwing uprising can be stoppped without Israel withdrawing from the territories?

[Arens] I am sure that these two points are not connected. I think that the Jews and Arabs can live in peace, and I do not think that Jews and Arabs need to be physically separated to achieve peace.

[Marchand] Are you really convinced that it is possible to have peace without abandoning the territories?

[Arens] The PLO charter claims the whole of what they call Palestine, which includes Israel. We could secure peace by giving them all Israeli territory, but that would be the death of the Jewish people.

Arens Discusses Tabah, 'Uprising,' Peace Process

TA1201060989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Yoram Ronen and Yig'al Goren, on the weekly Moqed—live]

[Text] [Ronen] Good evening. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has been in office for less than 3 weeks, and in that time he has managed to meet with his U.S., USSR, PRC, FRG, French, and Egyptian counterparts. In the next few weeks Arens, together with Prime Minister Shamir, will be busy formulating an Israeli peace initiative, to which those counterparts he met in Paris this week tried to contribute ideas and proposals of their own. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is our guest tonight. Good evening, Prof Arens.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Ronen] Yig'al Goren and myself congratulate you upon your return from your first diplomatic mission, in which you dealt, among other things, with the Tabah issue, which was discussed today in the Inner Cabinet. Negotiations with Egypt on this issue are going to start next week. Our present position differs from that of the Egyptians on the questions of ownership of the hotel and entry arrangements. Do we have any red lines on which we will insist in these talks with the Egyptians?

[Arens] I do not believe that red lines need be drawn on such matters. We have our interests; they have theirs. I hope and expect that these interests will be common: that the Egyptians also want to see Tabah as a meeting point for Israelis and Egyptians; that the Egyptians also want tourism in the area to continue; that the Egyptians want Tabah to serve as an example of correct peace relations between our two countries. If this happens, I believe we will reach an agreement.

[Ronen] Is there a chance of Israeli management or joint Israeli-Egyptian management of the the Tabah hotel?

[Arens] It is possible. This is one of the options. I believe that the Egyptians realize that at present the Sonesta Hotel is a good business. They should be interested in not destroying it.

[Goren] Minister Arens, in today's Inner Cabinet meeting Minister Sharon criticized the Israeli move, saying that Israel is making concessions on Tabah, while Egypt is not keeping its commitments in the areas of trade, tourism, and preventing media attacks on Israel. Do you think that Israel should make Egyptian fulfillment of these commitments a condition for the finalization of the Tabah negotiations?

[Arens] First of all, I can neither confirm nor deny this report. As you well know, the Inner Cabinet sessions are confidential. As I have already said, at present there is no point in making any conditions. We should enter the negotiations with goodwill, as should the Egyptians.

[Ronen] Do you believe that the negotiations will be concluded within a day or 2?

[Arens] I doubt it. It is still a very complex issue. Commercial interests are involved here, as well as various arrangements in the area. We still need to draw the borderline. It will take more than 2 days.

[Goren] The Egyptians fear that Israel still sees a possibility that the borderline from border marker 91 to the water will be different from their view of the issue. Do you see the issue of sovereignty as finalized, or is it still open for negotiation?

[Arens] I think we still remember that the Egyptians did not want the arbitrators to be asked about the borderline. I believed that they should have been asked about it. I believe that the arbitration ruling might have been better for us had this question been asked. The Egyptians insisted on the question being: Where would the border markers be placed? The result is that the arbitration stipulates the location of the border markers and does not unequivocally determine the line to the beach. This still needs to be determined.

[Ronen] Prof Arens, you met with President Mitterrand, who upgraded the level of the PLO representation in France not long before your meeting. You conferred with George Shultz, who started negotiations with the PLO. Is there a chance for any Israeli political move that would continue to absolutely ignore talks with the PLO?

[Arens] I believe there is. In our meetings, I explained to the various ministers and to President Mitterrand our standing policy, which was shared by the United States in the past years, that any contacts with a terror organization legitimizes it and thus encourages violence and terror and cannot contribute to calm or peace. This is the right policy. A few weeks ago, the United States abandoned this policy, although it did not do so wholeheartedly. It is trying to distinguish between the PLO and more extreme elements within the PLO, now or in the past. I believe it is making a mistake.

Unfortunately, we are experienced in fighting terrorism. I had the opportunity to tell this to Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, who, at the beginning of our discussion, thanked me for our aid to the victims of the earthquake in Armenia and for what he termed our most efficient handling of the hijacked plane flown from the USSR to Israel. I told him: Unfortunately, sir, we are well experienced in dealing with terrorists and plane hijackings. That is why we were able to do our best to fulfill the task, and we are glad that you appreciate it.

[Goren] Mr Arens, you said in Paris that we would be prepared to conduct direct talks with Palestinians on their future. The question is: In your opinion, are there at present any Palestinian leaders who are not members of the PLO and who are prepared to talk to us? Does such a theoretical possibility exist?

[Arens] I think you have pointed out what may be the main problem in promoting the peace process in the region. Terror and fear are involved. There are some people whom we would expect to come to negotiations with us, but they are afraid. The first and most well known of them is King Husayn. Obviously, if we want to broaden the circle of peace in the region, we must talk to him. He is the king of a Palestinian state, and those who want to draw a distinction between western Palestinians and eastern Palestinians must bear in mind that most of the population in Jordan is western Palestinian.

There are more western Palestinians in Jordan than in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We have a long border with Jordan, and in the absence of normalization in our relations with Jordan there can be no comprehensive peace in the region. King Husayn knows that, but he is afraid of coming to the negotiating table.

[Goren] I am talking about Palestinian leaders in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Obviously, Jordan is an issue on its own merit, and we will discuss it later on. The question is: When we talk about negotiations with Palestinian representatives—with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation—who will be those representatives who will hold negotiations with us and say that they do not represent the PLO? Do you know any?

[Arens] I gave that as an example. One would think that King Husayn was in the best position: He has an army, he has security services, he is a king and not just an ordinary Palestinian, he has somebody to protect him.

[Ronen] Is he afraid? Is Husayn afraid of Yasir 'Arafat?

[Arens] I think he is afraid of terrorism. I would not like to point a finger at 'Arafat, but he is definitely apprehensive about terrorism. He already tangled with Yasir 'Arafat back in 1970, in what came to be known as Black September. I am sure he has not forgotten that. As far as the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is concerned, it is clear to us that they are affected by terror and threats.

We remember former Nabulus Mayor Zafir al-Masri, with whom I met in my capacity as defense minister. He was one of the most impressive and promising Palestinians I have met, and he was assassinated by the PLO not long ago.

Following Yasir 'Arafat's address to the United Nations in Geneva, when Palestinian figures in the territories called for a termination of the violence and for an improvement of the atmosphere to pave the way for negotiations, they were told that if they continued to talk that way, the bullets of his people—as 'Arafat himself put it—would find them. Obviously, we have a problem here. Had it not been for the problem of terror and intimidation, I think we would have found partners to negotiations a long time ago.

[Ronen] Perhaps this problem should be solved by promoting the idea of holding elections in the territories to determine the Palestinian representatives to negotiations with us? Is such a notion acceptable to you? Would you support it?

[Goren] I should like to add another question on the same issue: Perhaps holding such elections as soon as possible could restore calm in the territories and end the uprising? One of the reasons for the uprising may be that there is no hope for a political process. An initiative on the part of Israel could perhaps also contribute to this issue.

[Arens] These are interesting ideas, and I have no doubt that we will take them into account.

[Ronen] You do not rule them out.

[Arens] I do not rule out anything at the moment, certainly not that notion. As you know and as I explained in the meetings I held in Paris, this is a new government.

[Ronen] A new-old government.

[Arens] If you like. This government is now in the process of formulating its positions, and it will obviously examine various alternatives and possibilities before it presents them.

[Goren] What is your personal position on such elections? It need not commit the entire government.

[Arens] Have you ever heard of a foreign minister who voices his personal views? I am an amateur diplomat, and my entire diplomatic experience is limited to having spent 1 year as Israel's ambassador to the United States. As you know, my profession is aeronautical engineering.

[Ronen] We should point out that you have taken to diplomacy quite graciously.

[Arens] My impression is that in my capacity as Israel's foreign minister, I should not reply to hypothetical questions.

[Goren] Do you think elections are feasible? Is it realistic to think that through elections we will choose the representatives with whom we will ultimately have to negotiate?

[Arens] If your question is whether this notion is feasible, I would say that it is. Nevertheless, I should like to point out that an attempt to carry out such an idea would come up against terror and intimidation attempts. After all, to our regret, a tradition of democratic elections does not exist in the Arab world.

[Ronen] That is to say that we will not agree to holding elections in the territories unless terror and the intifadah [uprising] are terminated?

[Arens] You are expanding and trying to elaborate on the plan that may ultimately be embraced by the government, but it seems to me that it is too early to give you an answer.

[Goren] This is a fundamental question. Some say Israel cannot call elections under the shadow of the intifadah, while others say that elections in the territories could be the thing that would terminate the intifadah. Is there room for making the one-sided step of supporting elections in order to ease the pressure?

[Arens] I am very sorry that I cannot give you detailed answers to your questions and proposals. These are very nice proposals that I will relay to the Cabinet ministers and the prime minister, who will presumably take them into account.

[Ronen] Mr Foreign Minister, over the last 2 years we have rejected the Shultz initiative, and the Likud—and you had a part in it—rejected the London agreement between Husayn and Peres.

[Arens] At the time, this was presented as a U.S. proposal or agreement.

[Ronen] I assume that today we can talk about the London agreement, and everybody knows that it was reached between Husayn and Peres; this is no longer a secret.

[Goren] When he talked about your part in it, Yoram was referring to the Shultz initiative—to the fact that the prime minister dispatched you to the U.S. secretary of state in a bid to put an end to the notion of an international conference.

[Ronen] All that is past history. What I want to ask is: Would we not be in a better situation today if we had accepted the London agreement in 1981 and if we had not rejected the Shultz initiative? Would our political situation not be better today?

[Arens] I do not think so. Of course, it is very hard to speculate. Some think—and they are quite right—that the impression that Israel was not firm in its position was created, justly or unjustly, by those moves, thereby also creating the impression that we would soon have to attend an international conference and would be asked to withdraw from the territories and that heavy political pressure would be exerted on us. Some believe that these impressions contributed to the acts of violence we have been witnessing lately in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Goren] Perhaps these very moves brought on the uprising in the territories? Perhaps the continued Israeli intransigence, which caused the residents to feel that there is no light at the end on the tunnel, was the cause of the uprising? Could it be that Shim'on Peres was right when he said that those who rejected Husayn have now been given 'Arafat?

[Arens] Conversely, the uprising could have been brought on by the expectation that Israel is about to withdraw, that Israel is under pressure. I think it is now clear that one of the goals of the violence in Judaea and Samaria—perhaps its main goal—is to create international pressure on Israel.

[Goren] And the pressure was indeed so considerable that even the United States, our greatest friend, has decided to launch a dialogue with the PLO. And who made this decision? George Shultz, Israel's greatest friend in recent years.

[Arens] Well, any approach creating the impression that ours is less than a staunch stand, that we are budging, that we can be budged, in effect encourages local violence.

[Ronen] We have mentioned George Shultz several times in the process of this talk. During his visit here—and not only here—George Shultz repeatedly said that there will be no progress in the political process if Israel fails to adopt the principle of territories for peace. Do you believe negotiations can be launched if we do not adopt this principle of territories for peace?

[Arens] First of all, I would like to remind you that the greatest leap in the peace process—in fact the takeoff—was made by Menahem Begin and Anwar al-Sadat 10 years ago.

[Ronen] It was territories for peace even then.

[Arens] Yes, but not in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, not in these perimeters. Those two wise men decided not to deal with or discuss the issue. They concluded that the first step had to be an interim settlement and that only after that could a permanent settlement be negotiated. They understood that the differences between the two parties with regard to both their aspirations and their fears were too vast to attempt an immediate permanent settlement.

I think this conclusion remains valid today. Therefore, I do not believe that at this point we should discuss the nature of the permanent settlement, such as territories for peace, but should first focus on the interim settlement, undertaking at the same time to engage in negotiations for a permanent arrangement after the interim settlement.

[Golan] President Mubarak, however, has repeatedly said—as he did again this week—that the Camp David accords are no longer relevant, that they were appropriate for the time when they were made. He says that the situation and the circumstances have changed and that negotiations should be based on the current conditions.

[Arens] First of all, as I said in my two talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, I must repeat that the Camp David accords are agreements signed by Israel and Egypt. Both sides are committed to these agreements. Even if one of the parties believes the agreement should be either amended or improved or that some of its parts are irrelevant, that party should approach us to see whether an agreement on that issue can be reached. Neither Egypt nor Israel is free to decide unilaterally that parts of the accords we all signed—and Israel has paid a tremendous price for these accords—are no longer relevant and can therefore be abandoned. I have the impression, however, that the Egyptians also agree that the first step toward an arrangement must be an interim settlement. I cannot speak on their behalf, but I can certainly tell you that such an agreement exists.

[Goren] Mr Arens, in this context, do you agree to the idea of negotiations under the aegis of the two superpowers, of the United Nations perhaps? Does this idea seem feasible to you?

[Arens] You are quoting an idea raised by the prime minister, are you not?

[Goren] Yes, over the past few years, this idea has been raised several times in different forms.

[Arens] He has said he does not reject it. This brings us back to the necessary conditions for direct negotiations. If we are to have a chance to obtain positive results, this is the most natural and most correct way—perhaps the only correct way—to conduct negotiations. We are not interested in negotiations that are apt to generate frustration and bitterness.

[Goren] The question is whether the conditions are ripe for the two superpowers to assume patronage over direct negotiations.

[Arens] This is precisely the point I was about to reach. As far back as 1 and ½ years ago, the prime minister adopted U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' proposal that the parties to the conflict would be invited to conduct direct negotiations during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. Had the Jordanians embraced the idea, we could have implemented it. Yesterday, or the day before yesterday, the prime minister said that UN aegis is also a possibility, if direct negotiations are guaranteed.

[Goren] Do you think this reflects a softening of the prime minister's stands?

[Arens] No, there is no softening here. Our basic condition—and I believe we have a broad national consensus on this—is direct negotiations.

[Goren] With whom?

[Arens] With all the parties to the conflict. As long as there are sides to the conflict who are not willing to participate in direct negotiations, the conflict cannot be resolved.

[Goren] But who will represent the Palestinians, who constitute the heart of the problem? We have returned to square one: The conflict is between us and the Palestinians.

[Arens] I will tell you what I told the ministers with whom I met in Paris. Some of them may have been partially unaware of the facts, as are perhaps even some Israelis: There are about 700,000 Palestinians within the boundaries of Israel. I dealt with their problems during the past 2 years. Most of them are Israeli nationals. They take part in Israel's political life and serve as Knesset members. Their problems are solved through political activity within the framework of the law of the State of Israel. This is my first point.

As I have already said, there are more Palestinians in Jordan than in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Jordan is a Palestinian state, with whom we must reach an agreement on our joint border. If we disagree—and I believe Jordan insists to this very day that it is at war with us—then we have a conflict around the question of whether the frontier should lie where it currently does or west of the Jordan River, as the Jordanians would like it to be.

There are 1.3 million Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip: 800,000 in Judaea and Samaria and some 500,000 in the Gaza Strip. This population has ambitions and fears, and we must certainly address them.

[Goren] They are, in fact, the root of the problem.

[Arens] That depends on one's definition.

[Goren] Can we decide on their representation for them?

[Arens] I have not decided on their behalf who is to represent them, and I do not believe any Israeli minister has demanded the right to determine this for them. There are others who demand this right, others who have not been elected through a democratic process. They are the PLO people sitting in Tunisia—not in Nabulus or Ramallah, but in Tunisia.

Without going into details of that organization's terrorist past, of what may be the greatest horrors the world has seen since World War II, I wish to tell you that most of those men sitting in Tunisia are not from Ramallah or Nabulus or Hebron, but usually from Haifa, 'Akko, and Ramla. These men claim the right of return, referring not only to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, but to Israel itself.

[Goren] Call their bluff. Test them. Sit down at the negotiating table with them, listen to what they have to say, and voice whatever you have to say. You and I both know that in Israel there are also quite a few people who talk about Greater Israel, but reality lies somewhere in the middle.

[Arens] You amaze me. I wonder at your ability to compare Israel, the only democratic country in the region, which elects its leaders and its government in a free and secret ballot, to a terrorist organization. What kind of a comparison is that? What are you talking about?

[Ronen] He was referring to extremists on both sides. Perhaps we can continue now. I would like to remind you that in October 1987 you, along with the prime minister, formulated several conditions for U.S.-Soviet sponsorship of the political process. These conditions included full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, a Shamir-Gorbachev meeting to which you have already referred, and free emigration of Soviet Jews. Do these conditions still exist, after your successful meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze?

[Arens] I think there has been a great improvement in Israel's relations with the Soviet Union, although they are still not completely normal and are perhaps still some distance away from complete normalization. Nevertheless, just as Mr Shevardnadze expressed his gratitude for our aid to the earthquake victims and our handling of the kidnapped aircraft affair, I expressed my gratitude for the very considerable improvement in conditions of the Soviet Jews.

There are no more prisoners of Zion, most of the Jewish refuseniks have been granted exit visas, and I believe nearly 20,000 Jews left the Soviet Union in the past year. If there is a similar desire on the Soviets' part, I think the present conditions make it possible to move on toward a normalization of relations, and I believe we are indeed moving toward that point.

[Ronen] Have you received the impression that there is indeed a fair chance for the resumption of full relations between the two countries?

[Arens] I think there is a fair chance. The question, of course, is when: whether it is to be within a few months or in the more distant future. It is very difficult to assess this point, although Mr Shevardnadze advised me that they agree to expand and deepen the scope of the consular delegations' activities, which will also be able to deal with political issues and whose living and working conditions will be improved. He also said that we will soon agree on the institutionalizing of our ties, which will allow us to exchange ideas and present our stands to each other.

[Ronen] The Hungarian agriculture minister said this week that full diplomatic relations will be established between Israel and Hungary within a few months. Do you expect the Soviet Union to follow Hungary, or perhaps to precede it?

[Arens] It is difficult to say. In most cases, we tend to believe that as far as the Communist bloc is concerned, the Soviet Union leads. There is no doubt, however, that we are moving forward in the right direction in our relations with the Soviet Union.

[Goren] Mr Arens, on the eve of the inauguration of the new U.S. Administration, the question is whether we can trust the next U.S. Administration to act as we expect of it with regard to the political process, or whether there is a danger—as some Israelis fear—that the next administration will resort to tools and measures to which we are not accustomed and which will demand that we take action if we do not wish to find ourselves in a very difficult position.

[Arens] We must trust ourselves, first and foremost. I remember, however, that when I arrived in the United States as Israeli ambassador in February 1982, relations between Israel and the United States were at the lowest point ever. There was a freeze on the F-16's, despite the agreement already signed on their delivery. The U.S. Administration was angry with Israel at that point both because of the Golan Heights Annexation Law and because of the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

By the way, had we not bombed it, I believe the Iraqis would have used nuclear weapons; we have seen them use chemical warfare. We managed, however, to bring about a change in the direction our relations with the United States were taking, to improve them beyond recognition, and to raise them to a new record in an actual feeling of alliance between two countries and in much more extensive aid. I think, today too...

[Goren, interrupting] Is there also a chance of changing the U.S. decision regarding the dialogue with the PLO?

[Arens] I do not know; I do not wish to be so specific. I think, however, that if we know how to act, if we know how to explain, we do have a case, an excellent case. Israelis sometimes suffer from an inferiority complex and do not realize how good a case we have. They talk of the rights of the Palestinians, fearing to mention the rights of the Jewish people. We, too, have rights. These things can be explained to the United States. There are people who know how to explain them. Therefore, I would not fear a deterioration in Israeli-U.S. relations.

[Ronen] Talking of explaining to the United States, Binyamin Netanyahu, your deputy, said yesterday that we are experiencing one of the most difficult periods in the history of our political battles. What must happen before this situation improves? Perhaps our political initiative should be speeded up, because time is against us. The PLO is gaining momentum, while we are keeping silent.

[Arens] It is true that the Government of Israel must formulate its stands and come out with an initiative, and it is also true that totalitarian states—I am not referring to the United States, the greatest democracy in the world—are unfamiliar with the processes that have kept us busy in recent weeks: elections, the forming of a coalition, the creation of a national consensus. These are the basic processes in a democratic regime. Democratic states understand this, and they will wait for us to present our stands and initiatives. I am positive these stands will convince.

[Goren] It appears that nowadays, the democracies of the world do not really understand our case. It appears that they are unwilling to purchase the goods we are so eager to sell on the subject of our relations with the PLO. The question is whether we can go on working with the old tools, or whether we should change them.

[Arens] There is no need to throw away the tools.

[Goren] Change, not throw away.

[Arens] Change means throwing the old ones out. The old tools are very good. I explained to the foreign ministers with whom I met—I had the opportunity to do so, because the conference I attended dealt with prohibiting the use of chemical weapons—that we Israelis came to the conference with perhaps greater concern and fears than any of the other 140 delegates. Millions of Jews were killed in the gas chambers in World War II. Furthermore, we live in the Middle East, where two countries—Iraq and Libya—have used chemical weapons. The Iraqis did so on a very wide scale. These are two countries that proclaim that they are at a state of war with Israel.

We feel the threat more than any other country in Europe or North America. Therefore, it is our right and our duty to take care of our security. It is very easy to sit in Western Europe or any other distant place and advise us whether we should talk to the terrorist organizations or not, whether to take chances, test them, and so forth. It looks utterly different from this side.

I must tell you that after a rather lengthy conversation in this spirit, one of the foreign ministers told me: If I were in your place, I would have said the same.

[Goren] Who was it?

[Arens] No need to elaborate.

[Goren] It is rather intriguing.

[Ronen] I assume that within a few weeks, before your own visit to the United States and that of the prime minister to the United States and to France, the Israeli Government's political plan will be announced. Are we in for a surprise?

[Arens] I do not think we will be surprised, because after all, our basic conditions, rights, and concerns are well known. They include three components which, I think, are clear to all: We insist on direct negotiations; we—at least I—believe that an interim settlement should precede and pave the way for a permanent settlement; we will have to address ourselves to the ambitions and fears of both sides: the Israelis, as well as the Palestinians.

[Ronen] We will then have to wait patiently until the details of the Israeli peace initiative are revealed in a few weeks. Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, for being our guest on the Moqed program. Thank you, too, Yig'al Goren.

Chamber of Commerce Holds Talks With PRC

TA0601131889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jan 89 p 20

[Report by economics editor Shlomo Ma'oz]

[Excerpt] Contacts are currently underway between the chambers of commerce of Israel and China, Danny Gillerman, president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

One topic that has come up for discussion is the possibility of forming joint ventures between companies in both countries, although the contacts are still preliminary, he said. Unlike chambers of commerce in other countries, Gillerman noted, the Israeli federation is a non-governmental body. As a result, those countries with whom Israel has no official diplomatic relations, like China, but who are interested in forming trade ties, view the federation as an ideal channel. [passage omitted]

Envoy to France Comments on PLO Office Upgrade

TA0601151389 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Jan 89 pp 1,2

[Report by correspondent in France Gid'on Kouts]

[Excerpts] Paris (Special for DAVAR)—The PLO office in Paris will be upgraded to the rank of "general delegation of Palestine," but will not be accorded diplomatic status, French President Francois Mitterrand yesterday told the DAVAR correspondent in Paris. [passage omitted]

Israeli Ambassador to France 'Ovadia Sofer yesterday said that "the significance of the new name of the PLO office has to be examined, yet the fact that it will not enjoy diplomatic status is good in itself. It should be remembered, however, that in view of the atmosphere of violence in the world, this step constitutes unjustified and untimely encouragement for the PLO, which has not committed itself to anything and which carries on acts of terror against Israel, imperiling its very existence." Yesterday Sofer held various contacts through the Foreign Ministry [not further specified], in the process of which the French attempted to minimize the significance of the PLO's new name. [passage omitted]

Lubrani on IDF Casualties in Galilee Area

TA1201101889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jan 89 p 2

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon, said that the lack of civilian casualties in Galilee had cost the lives of 19 IDF soldiers in 1988, with 59 wounded. He was speaking at a study day at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle East Research yesterday.

"That doesn't mean everything's okay at the northern border," he hastened to add. "Actually, there's some sort of incident every day and every night, even if most of it doesn't get to the media. Everything we do is designed to prevent us from having to move troops into Lebanon; it is obvious that any Israeli government, regardless of political persuasion, would have no choice but to send troops into Lebanon to clean up if—God forbid—Katyushas hit Qiryat Shemona and Nahariyya and killed women and children."

The Shi'ites in Lebanon, he said, are "a flock with mediocre would-be shepherds but no real leader." [passage omitted]

Former SLA Leader To Resume Command 'Soon'

TA1201061989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] It was 4 years ago this week that the government decided to pull Israeli troops out of Lebanon and establish a security zone along the border area with Israel. Israel also increased its help to the South Lebanese Army [SLA], which has been commanded by General Antoine Lahd following the death of its original commander, Major Sa'd Haddad, in January 1984.

The defense minister, Mr Yitzhaq Rabin, visited Gen Lahd yesterday to wish him a speedy recovery, following the wounds he sustained several weeks ago during an attempted assassination attack against him.

Lahd is expected to resume active command of the SLA soon. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked Defense Minister Rabin how he assesses the SLA's operational capabilities today:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] It is in the process of improvement of its combat capability, and no doubt we have seen great progress on their part. The attempt on the life of Gen Lahd did not affect the efficiency or activity of the SLA, and I am sure that they know that Gen Lahd will return to his role as commander of the SLA in the coming future.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you see any reason for a change in Israeli policy regarding the zone? It is 4 years since it was decided to establish the security zone.

[Rabin] No, I believe that the decision that was taken by the Government of Israel 4 years ago and was implemented by the IDF proves that in the 3 and ½ years we succeeded to prevent any activities that really endangered the peace in the Galilee. No Israeli civilian—Jew or non-Jew—was assassinated or got killed as a result of terror activities originated in Lebanon. [end recording]

Hamas Leader Warned Against 'Instigating' Gazans

JN1201071089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the southern region, yesterday summoned Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—in the Gaza Strip, to the military command in Gaza and gave him an unequivocal warning against continuing to instigate Gaza residents through mosques to carry out acts against law and order.

During the meeting, which was attended by Brigadier Arye Shifman, head of Gaza Civil Administration, ways to stop the incidents in Gaza were discussed. The Hamas spiritual leader demanded that the authorities immediately release all detainees in all prisons, stop collecting taxes in the territories, and instruct soldiers not to provoke local citizens, as he put it.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

3 Gaza Residents Wounded

TA1101175989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Three residents of the Gaza Strip were wounded today and hospitalized in Gaza. A curfew has been imposed on the Al-Shati' refugee camp.

A hand grenade with a missing detonator was found in the cafeteria of the Civil Administration headquarters in Gaza this morning. Usually, most of the patrons there are Israelis. The hand grenade was removed by an IDF bomb disposal expert.

1 Wounded in West Bank

TA1101203589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpt] In Judaea and Samaria today there were only sporadic incidents. Military sources reported that in the village of 'Aynabus in the Nabulus District, a local resident was wounded by IDF fire during an incident in which village residents hurled stones at IDF soldiers. [passage omitted]

Curfew Placed on Village

TA1201065089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Early this morning, the Israeli police imposed a curfew on the village of Silwan, located at the foothills of the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem. The curfew order was issued by the commander of the Central Command in accordance with emergency regulations in the wake of the recurrent disturbances in that area.

Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that the village of Silwan is one of the centers of daily disturbances in East Jerusalem, where stone and firebomb throwing, demonstrations, and riots are routine happenings. A permanent police unit is stationed in the village to enforce order.

IDF Clashes With Settlers

TA1201071289 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 12 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] Yaqir Junction—Jewish settlers clashed with IDF forces in Samaria yesterday as the settlers tried to stop the army from tearing down a memorial for murdered taxi driver Shim'on Edri, at Yaqir Junction near Immanu'el. The memorial was put up by his relatives and settlers on the spot where Edri's body was found last Thursday. He was apparently killed for nationalist motives.

A group of approximately 20 settlers surrounded the memorial in an effort to prevent the soldiers from tearing it down. "We only put up passive resistance," said one of the demonstration's organizers, Ya'aqov Eshel, head of security for the Samaria settlements. According to Eshel, soldiers dragged the settlers out of their way and then pulled down the memorial.

"We are protesting at the army's action in pulling down the memorial. It was like killing Edri a second time," said Eshel. "There were only ten of us here when we came out to put up the memorial. It was no big deal." But by yesterday evening, around 200 more settlers had arrived at the site, the local military authorities report.

Settlers vowed to remain on the scene until the army grants them permission to rebuild the monument. MK [Knesset Member] Rehav'am Ze'evi (Gandhi) arrived at Yaqir around eight o'clock and tried to mediate.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 12 January adds: "The Army moved in this morning and removed most of the settlers who had positioned themselves at the Yaqir Junction in Samaria. However, some 20 people remain, insisting that they have the right to protest against the death last week of taxi driver Shim'on Edri and against the overall security situation in Samaria."]

8 Wounded in West Bank

TA1201124089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] There were numerous disturbances in Judaea and Samaria this morning. Eight people were wounded, including two who sustained serious injuries. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the most severe incidents erupted in Tulkarm when news arrived about the death of a youngster who had been wounded some time ago. Six local residents were wounded, and a curfew was imposed on the town. The two other casualties are residents of Hebron.

Boy Killed in Riots

TA1201133589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] A boy was killed and a girl was seriously injured in severe disturbances in Tulkarm. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that riots broke out in the area this morning after news arrived of the death of a local youth who had been injured some time ago. Residents hurled stones at security forces and tried to attack other residents suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. Soldiers opened fire, killing a 12-year-old boy and seriously wounding an 18-year-old girl. Ten other residents were wounded.

Several other people were injured in disturbances in Hebron, 'Anabta, and different locations. A young man whose father was suspected of collaborating with Israelis was shot and seriously injured in Nabulus.

Shamir's Office on Retirement of Mosad Chief

TA1101163989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said this evening that there is no connection between the expected resignation of the head of the Mosad and media reports criticizing his performance. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

Judging by the details of an article in HA'IR, a local Tel Aviv weekly, that were made known yesterday as a result of a High Court of Justice ruling, the casual observer would assume that there is a direct causal relationship between the criticism leveled in the article about the performance of the head of the Mosad and his impending retirement. The Prime Minister's Office, which, as is known, oversees the Mosad's operations, hurried to patch up appearances this afternoon.

A statement issued a short time ago by Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, states—and I quote: There is no connection between the retirement of the head of the Mosad, who has held his post for 6 years and whose retirement had been planned many months ago, and the articles about the Mosad that have appeared in the media over the past week. The head of the Mosad has enjoyed the prime minister's complete confidence throughout his entire term in office and continues to benefit from it. [passage omitted]

Shin Bet Appointment Affecting Mosad Decision

TA1201080189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] A new chief of the General Security Service, the Shin Bet, has recently been appointed. This was reported by our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami. The new chief was elected from inside the Shin Bet. Our correspondent notes that this fact is one of the considerations being weighed in the debate whether the new Mosad chief is to be from within the establishment or from outside it.

Our correspondent adds that the reports of disagreements in the administration's high echelons over the appointment are groundless. The prime minister will decide on the appointment within a few days, after consulting with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. After that, the Inner Cabinet will be informed of the appointment.

Number of Unemployed Rose 48.3 Percent in 1988

TA1101083289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jan 89 p 8

[Report by Jeff Black]

[Excerpt] The number of people unemployed last year rose 48.3 percent from 1987, with the monthly average totalling 25,100, compared with 16,900 the previous year, the Employment Service reported yesterday.

The number of job seekers rose 28.6 percent during the period, from a monthly average of 37,500 in 1987 to 48,225 last year while the number of available jobs dropped 6.6 percent, to a monthly average of 20,300 last year. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Reads 1989 Budget Statement

JN3112185688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1623 GMT 31 Dec 88

["Text" of budget statement for fiscal year 1989 read by Finance Minister Dr Hanna 'Awdah in Amman on 31 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Brother compatriots: While extending to you the best of greetings, it pleases me to talk to you in order to place before you the dimensions of the general budget law for fiscal year 1989 after a royal decree was issued ratifying it. I would like to point out all facts and data according to which the government prepared the general budget and to explain the economic and financial trends expressed by this law.

It honors me to convey to His Majesty King Husayn the most solemn assurances of love and loyalty, thus expressing the true loyalty of all members of his one large family and their great adherence to his genuine historic mission and matchless wise leadership which is leading us always to coasts of safety, positions of might, and sources of light. It is a pledge we make to the leader of the march and the vangaurd of its progress that we all will remain faithful soldiers rallying around the fluttering Hashemite banner so that Jordan will remain strong and powerful.

Brother compatriots, recent years have witnessed successive economic and financial developments in the international and Arab arenas. These developments have naturally had various negative extensions and reflections on our national economy. The stands of the industrialized and developing countries—and even those within the industrialized group itself—differ on the practical formulas and appropriate arrangements to resolve the problem of foreign debts from which the developing countries are suffering these days. The continued exacerbation of the debts crisis led to further pressures and disorders which echoed negatively on the developing countries' balances of payments, the directions of their foreign trade, and the evenness of their interests under the current world economic order.

This affected their overall economic performance, growth ratios, and ability to fulfill their commitments with their own resources. The Arab arena was not isolated from these events, because it is part of the developing world. A state of economic relaxation afflicted the Arab region in the past few years, represented by a drop in the volume of trade exchanged among Arab states and by a drop in the demand for labor forces and the disruption of joint Arab action. This requires a serious pause at the concept of Arab economic integration at a time when the European group is moving toward the formation of a unified market at the outset of the 1990's and at a time when blocs in several parts of the world are getting more cohesive.

Brother compatriots, we in Jordan have lived a year abounding with events as a result of economic and financial developments on both the international and Arab levels. They were also a natural result of the rectification and adaptation measures we began so that the national economy will conform with foreign developments and future aspirations. In the past years, and as part of well-studied plans and programs, Jordan achieved tremendous accomplishments in all economic and social sectors, particularly in building its infrastructure, whose economic dimension is today constituting the main bases of investment and diversified production. Its social dimension brought about a qualitative change and a better life for citizens.

At a time when the government has undertaken to execute all of the national networks of key services, given their high precedence, it has pursued policies and introduced measures to enable productive sectors and activities to play their effective role in the national economy. It set about addressing the affairs of big companies that have been experiencing financial, administrative, and techincial problems and helped them weather their difficulties. It has also worked to support farmers and relieve their debt burdens. The government further solidified the finances of local councils and strengthened their bureaucratic efficiency. It has placed special emphasis on administrative and financial development in the state bureaucracy and continued to complete the public services and upgrade the legislation pertinent to investment. It was natural that all this should lead to increased public spending.

If this spending underlies the positive rates of development in the national economy after the volume of the investment by the private sector receded, reflecting a region-wide economic slowdown, in the meantime, it mirrors the high price of development, all the burdens of which must be borne by us. The government, has, for its part, continued to honor its internal and external financial obligations without compromising the requirements of defense and public security, sectoral and regional development, and sharing out its gains among the various strata of the citizens in all parts of the Kingdom.

Accordingly, two key factors have come to the fore that need to be stated:

First: Our economy is built on solid foundations and backed by all its built-in strong points, foremost of which is its wise, enlightened leadership and the flexibility and openness of its system of government, its society's stability and security, its people's maturity and sense of belonging, and the sufficiency and effectivenss of its infrastructure.

Second: Our economy is still experiencing structural imbalances manifested as follows:

1. Lack of balance among economic sectors: The services sector has expanded relative to the commodity production sector.

2. The general state budget deficit that has risen in proportion to the domestic production due to declining public revenues as a result of erratic Arab financial aid decreed by the Baghdad summit, with the exception of aid from the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As the bulk of our foreign financial obligations were based on this aid, we have had to draw on our own resources to honor them. This is in addition to persistent high government spending in order to maintain the growth of the national economy.

3. The balance of payments deficit stemming from the Kingdom's expenses outstripping its foreign currency earnings due to a mounting state budget deficit and servicing foreign debts, bloated imports brought about by prevailing patterns of consumerism, and a retreating competetiveness of Jordanian exports.

4. Unemployment in the job market which is essentially attributed to a structural nature strengthened by the total of the economic circumstances. As a matter of fact, this phenomenon emanates from a conspicuous disparity between the supply of the work force and the demand for it. It also reflects a certain social attitude toward the concept of work.

For all this, we had to reformulate the concept of development according to a new national perspective based on building the self-potentials through the exploitation of our national resources and our renewed capabilities and also through strengthening the ties of cooperation and dealing with foreign countries.

Brother compatriots, His Majesty King Husayn consented to patronize the comprehensive development conference which was held on 28-29 November 1988. At that conference, his majesty the king delivered a wide-ranging orientation speech that was actually a national development charter for a new phase extending to the end of this century. His majesty the king, may God protect him, stressed to us the importance of using the positive things we have as a springboard for confronting the challenges posed by the decade of the nineties.

The great wealth brought about by the comprehensive development during the past years, our educated and enlightened people, our regionally and internationally unblemished reputation, our economic system based on economic freedom linked to social justice, our political climate based on centrism and moderation, and the bright Jordanian history replete with struggle and firmness in the face of all circumstances—all of these realities are our most important positive traits which will enable us, God willing, to crystallize economic plans and their programs in order to implement the new approach which is based on the attainment of the following principles and objectives:

1. To build the productive economy which falls in harmony with our ethics and traditions regarding the abandonment of all forms of wasteful spending and the pursuit of moderate spending and feasible saving and investment to reduce imports, increase self-reliance and exports, and properly and soundly manage financial resources on the levels of the institution, the family, and the individual.

2. To achieve an equilibrium between the population and the resources to ensure the best possible distribution of the fruits of development among urban, rural, and desert areas.

3. To take interest in the land, natural resources, water, energy, the environment, and touristic sites, and to focus on agriculture as a basic pivot for the economic process and as a developed human and social activity.

4. To build defense capabilities to preserve security and stability and to give our Armed Forces the full opportunity to continue to perform their national duty.

5. To focus on the self-management capabilities and to give attention to scientific research, science, and technology; to provide the atmosphere for creativity; and to unleash the unused energies and exploit them to serve the needs of the homeland and of the citizens within a homogeneous and coordinated framework.

6. To rearrange the roles of both the public and private sectors and to enhance the private sector's role in launching initiatives and in production.

7. To continue work to achieve an inter-Arab economic integration to make it serve as a mainstay for the comprehensive Arab order.

These principles and objectives and the great meanings and the clearly obvious bases entailed in them will, with God's help, be our beacon in any economic and social development endeavor within a framework in which a balance will be struck between the ambitions and abilities and within a framework that would place our expenditure in its proper channels, that would place our investments in their feasible marches, and that would use our self-potentials in the best possible manner.

Brother compatriots, in this regard, I am pleased to extend greetings of pride to His Highness Prince Hasan, the regent, for the great efforts exerted by his highness during the development meetings in the Kingdom's regions with the participation of all the functionaries concerned with the development process.

These meetings were concluded by the comprehensive development conference, where standard recommendations were drawn up in the fields of management of resources, land, water, and manpower; financial policies and finance; institutional and administrative reform; the supporting services; the infrastructure; and legislation and procedures.

The government is studying these standard recommendations with an examining eye in order to take the executive resolutions on the recommendations related to them which are compatible with the main principles of the comprehensive national development charter. The government calls on the private sector to follow the same orientation about the recommendations related to it so that links will become complete within the planned frames for the coming stage.

Brother compatriots, the state of economic recession witnessed by the region is a reality which imposes challenges and calls for adopting a multifaceted, multidimensional development course. Dealing with this reality transcends the short time interval and adjusting to it is a national aspiration which calls for following a behavioral trend in performance, work, production, and consumption. All hands that are working to improve production levels, increase the acceleration of export growth, and curtail luxury consumption and ostentation must implement this aspiration and lay its foundations.

For the Jordanian economy to be able to head toward its objectives within the basics of its order and principles, the government has taken a series of economic, financial, and monetary measures to deepen the concept of savings, improve the investment atmosphere, increase the dependence on market parameters, and restore liveliness and equilibrium to the national economy and place it on the course of progress and growth.

For this purpose, the government has worked in many fields. These are:

I. The field of economic measures, which includes the following:

1. Cancellation of the conditions of advanced licensing for investments in agriculture and industry, acceleration of the registration procedures for these investments, and the formation of a specialized unit in the Ministry of Industry and Trade to follow up the procedures related to investments on behalf of the investor and in order to guide him.

2. Providing protective customs for locally-produced industrial commodities after the cancellation of closed protectionism.

3. Amending the law of encouraging investment, standardizing tax exemptions for all development regions and restricting them to 5 years, and following the principle of transferring losses until after the end of the exemption period. A special fund will be established to support investment by providing easy loans to investors in the development regions outside main cities.

4. Charging working teams with studying the best methods to encourage exports and improve tools of investment and its new channels. These teams have completed their studies and the necessary resolutions in this regard will be issued soon. II. The field of monetary measures; it includes the following:

1. The adoption of the flotation method to fix the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate in a manner that secures a balance between the Kingdom's foreign currency revenues and its usage of these revenues, and, consequently, to keep it around its real market value in order to encourage exports, tourism, saving, and investment.

2. Floating the interest rates of current credit accounts and various types of deposits, and floating the commission rates of direct loans while fixing their interest rates with the aim of increasing competition among the commercial banks and financial companies in order to attract residing and nonresiding deposits and to finance investment.

3. Organizing the exchange market and confining the work of moneychangers to buying and selling foreign banknotes and coins as well as buying foreign currency travelers and bank checks.

4. Organizing transaction in banknotes and credit facilities and reconsidering the ratio of the commercial banks' legal reserves at the Central Bank.

III. The field of financial measures; this includes the following:

1. Adopting the policy of checking and rationalizing public expenditure, increasing the public institutions' dependence on their own resources, reconsidering the priorities of new projects according to their nature and their economic and financial returns, and avoiding borrowing except for productive projects.

2. Amending customs duties in a manner that bolsters the competitive capability of local production.

3. Exempting all capital production commodities and a number of raw materials and goods from custom duties and other duties and taxes in order to encourage investment and production and to reduce their cost.

4. Subjecting products similar to local products to customs duties in order to support local industries and increase their competitive capability.

5. Banning the importation of a number of luxuries worth about $200 million until the end of 1989 and raising the customs duties on another number of luxury commodities with the aim of curbing their importation.

Aware of what is entailed by the above measures, the government followed up the initial results of these measures, particularly their influence on prices and the cost of living, and put things in their normal and logical positions within the unified and intensive national efforts. Within this context, the government did the following:

1. It explained the new measures and their dimensions very clearly and frankly through all available channels so that there would be no ambiguity about them.

2. It opened dialogue with the industrial and commercial key figures in order to fix the prices of foodstuffs and medicines and the requirements of agricultural production and construction.

3. It continued to subsidize basic foodstuffs and to maintain their prices despite the increased value of government subsidy.

4. It reduced the electricity and water consumption tariff for citizens, particularly limited-income ones.

5. It set up an office at the Interior Ministry to receive the citizens' complaints in order to deter all practices aimed at exploitation. A committee was formed from the general secretaries in charge of following up and coordinating issues related to these measures, averting the implementation gaps, and making sure that they progress in the desired way.

Brother compatriots, the government is continuing its intensive efforts to fight the phenomenon of unemployment through activating the investments of the domestic and private sectors to create new job opportunities, preserve the current markets of the Jordanian work force, organize the job market in a manner in which the work force supply will match the demand for it, continue to open new markets for it abroad, and utilize the Technical Assistance Fund for this purpose.

Despite all economic circumstances and developments, the government has continued to pursue an approach based on enhancement of the productive base, deepening of the concept of saving, encouragement of investment, and attraction of Arab capital. The government has also followed up the results of the Jordanian investment seminars held in Japan and the United States under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan to acquaint the investor in these two countries with investment opportunities in the Kingdom and to explain the regional economic role played by Jordan.

These seminars yeilded great positive results, foremost among which was the signing of the long-term $300 million Japanese loan with easy terms. Furthermore, investors from friendly states paid various trips to the Kingdom to launch productive projects in cooperation with the Jordanian private sector. Moreover, the government has decided to implement the 5-year plan for the wire and radio communications to redouble the benefit from the investments made in the national and international communications network. It has also reinforced the financial resources of the specialized lending corporations which are interested in providing suitable financing for special investments in the fields of agriculture, tourism, and medium-sized and small industries.

Measures are being taken to prepare economic and technical studies for some basic industrial and chemical projects. Phosphates will begin to be produced with increasing commercial quantities from the Al-Shidiyah mine. Also, various touristic agreements have been signed with international firms. National programs for prospecting for oil and gas are proceeding in an intensive manner. The 'Arishah electricity station will be operated during January 1989 using the natural gas discovered in that area.

The government is working to implement an ambitious program to develop the private sector's services in the fields of accounting, marketing, and computer services. It has also supported the domestic sector through supporting the municipalities and village councils to alleviate their financial burdens and enable them to perform their tasks in serving local communities in the best possible manner.

The government has approved the companies law and is about to draw up the legislative framework for unifying the sources of agricultural lending, cooperative action, and agricultural unions. It has also approved the recommendations submitted by the Royal Commission for Administrative Development and which pertain to the links binding ministries to departments with the aim of affirming the principle of the unity of supervision and responsibility and ensuring coordination among the various activities at public institutions. Work will continue to study the reorganization of the public administration bodies, draw up the bases and criteria for measuring performance and improving the effeciency of workers, and bring about the best use of the available resources.

Brother compatriots, the general budget for 1989 originates from the spirit of the comprehensive national development charter and reflects the economic, financial, and monetary policies, which aim to put the development efforts on their right course and increase dependence on local financial resources. Allow me to present the main items included in the 1989 general budget law:

I. Chapter One:

A. Revenues:

1. Local revenues: 547.5 million Jordanian dinars [JD].

2. Financial aid: 225 million JD.

3. Installments of retrieved loans: 37.6 million JD.

The sum of revenues in chapter one: 810.1 million JD.

B. Expenditure:

1. Current expenditure, including the interest on general domestic and foreign debt: 688.9 million JD.

2. Capital expenditure: 243.5 million JD.

The sum of expenditure in chapter one: 932.4 million JD.

C. Deficit: 122.3 million JD.

II. Chapter Two: Development projects financed by loans and aid: 103 million JD.

Therefore, the total size of the budget for 1989 is 1,035,400,000 JD.

These figures in the general budget display the government measures to restrict current expenditure despite the increase in the service of the general debt. They also display the continued spending on the projects under implementation and rationalizing expenditure on new productive projects in order to to preserve economic activity in the Kingdom. They also display the increase in local revenues despite the measures taken to rationalize imports and consumption.

Therefore, the deficit estimated for 1989 will drop to 122.3 million JD—that is a drop of about 45 percent from the 1988 deficit. Hence, its ratio to the gross national product will drop from 13 percent in 1988 to around 7 percent expected for 1989.

While the government is stressing full adherence to the figures of this deficit, the stopping of spending on new projects of services and infrastructure, and abstention from borrowing for nonproductive projects, it aims to direct the general expenditure to increase demand on national products and decrease deficit in the general budget and its percentage to the gross national product until we reach an equilibrium in the national economy and rectify the balance of payments.

Brother compatriots, the adjusting processes of the national economy sectors and correcting their courses to correspond with the demands of the development stage and its future aspirations depends on the effectiveness of and the extent of harmony among the economic, financial, and monetary policies, and on the extent of the response by economic functionaries and citizens with these policies.

Thanks be to God, we have transcended the stage of waiting and anxiety in record time. We began to feel the good omens of the positive effects of the economic, financial, and monetary measures, particularly on exports, encouragement of investment, and hampering consumption. This will increase demand for local products and national exports, rationalize imports, and increase the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves.

Brother compatriots, with the help of God and thanks to its matchless Hashemite leadership and the unity of its citizens' efforts, Jordan succeeded in enhancing international and regional confidence in its national economy. The Arab brothers' support for and realization of Jordan's pioneering role in the Arab arena had their clear effect on what we achieved. I would like to seize this opportunity to express our thanks to them.

We also thank the governments of the friendly states and those responsible for Arab funds and both regional and international institutions for their continued response to our development requirements, thus proceeding from their confidence in the soundness of Jordan's economic trends.

Brother compatriots, we greatly hope that the one Jordanian family will quickly adapt to the new developments of this stage and that the Jordanian citizen will respond to the new trends and prop them up with the means of success and perpetuation under His Majesty King Husayn, the leader of our march and builder of the homeland

Thank you, and God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Tariq 'Aziz Says Iraq Wants To Send Forces

NC1201072889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Interest is focused on the Arab foreign ministers' meeting to begin in Tunis this morning. It will first discuss the downing of two Libyan planes by U.S. fighters and the U.S. threats to Libya. The Arab foreign ministers will begin their discussions of the Lebanese situation during a second session to be held at noon today. The conference will last 2 days. Lebanon is not attending the meetings.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met yesterday with his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal. After the meeting, 'Aziz said he told him that Iraq insists on imparting a general Arab character to the Syrian role in Lebanon. 'Aziz added that he does not object to participating in a followup committee if the Syrian role is Arabized.

He said: I told Sa'ud al-Faysal that it is better for us to Arabize the Lebanese situation than to Lebanonize the Arab situation. He asserted that Iraq demands to send Iraqi forces to Lebanon to participate in the task of maintaining security until Lebanon regains its sovereignty by deploying its Army [in all Lebanese areas]. He said Iraq will not accept a Syrian monopoly of all roles in Lebanon.

Libyan Envoy on U.S. Decision To Cancel Maneuvers

NC1201110389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Libyan Ambassador to Lebanon 'Ashur al-Furtas has stated that he is expecting all the best to come out of the Arab foreign ministers meeting, which will open later today in Tunis, because the Arabs had called for this meeting to find a durable, just, and comprehensive solution to the constitutional crisis in Lebanon. He added that thorough preparations involving several Arab parties preceded this conference.

In a statement following a meeting with Ambassador Faruq Abu al-Lam', foreign ministry secretary general, Ambassador al-Fartus said: The Arab countries sincerely wish to find a just and comprehensive settlement in Lebanon acceptable to all Arab parties.

Asked whether he expects the United States to strike the Al-Rabitah plant, he said: Based on past experience, we cannot but expect such an act. However, he added, what causes satisfaction is the U.S. decision to cancel the U.S. maneuvers near the Libyan shore. We hope this will be a positive beginning of a revision of the U.S. policy, which was characterized by continuing provocations against Libya over the past 2 decades.

Hizballah Says U.S. Behind Inter-Shi'ite Feud

NC1201080989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The siege imposed on Islamic resistance positions has come because of a U.S.-Israeli decision to paralyze this resistance and prevent it from waging jihad against the Zionists and their allies. This came in a statement by [Hizballah official] 'Abbas al-Musawi to our radio.

Regarding the conspiracy currently being implemented against the Shi'ites, his eminence said America and international arrogance are behind it, using some of the sons of this nation as tools to implement this attempt to terminate the Islamic resistance and undermine the high morale enjoyed by its youth. He stressed that this battle was imposed on us as a result of the delusion to which the Amal followers are being subjected. He added: We are fighting them so that the Muslim banners, contrary to the schemes of arrogance against us and our principles, will not fall.

His Eminence al-Musawi noted tht misleading slogans are currently being propagated in order to strike at the Islamic resistance, noting that silence over what is happening and failure to face up to it will ultimately finish off the resistance, thus giving its enemies a chance to complete their march toward Maydun and western Al-Biqa'. This will not allow us to keep our heads high in the face of America and Israel.

Hostage Solution Unlikely Before Bush Settles In

PM1201093589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jan 89 p3

[Report on unattributed interview with Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council in Lebanon, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "the time has not yet come" for a solution to the problem of foreign hostages in Lebanon. He expected the issue to start moving again "after a sufficient period of time after U.S. President-elect George Bush assumes power." But he believes that "the problem has gotten out of proportion and is now subject to political and nonpolitical haggling." [passage omitted]

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT whether he expects the hostages to be released as a result of his recent talks in Tehran, Shams al-Din said: With regard to the hostage issue, we, contrary to the prevailing conviction, expected the hostage problem to become more complicated. It seems that we were right in our anticipation: It is now over 5 months since Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, but no breakthrough has been achieved yet. We still believe that the hostage problem's time has still not come. [passage omitted]

In his interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Shams al-Din added: With reservation, I expect the hostage issue to start moving after a sufficient period of time after the new U.S. President assumes power. I agree with what has been repeatedly said, namely that this issue has become a prisoner of its own elements. Probably getting rid of the hostages has become a burden, and great shrewdness is now required in handling the problems. Nevertheless, I would say in general that a solution to the problem will not take as much time as the problem itself has taken. But when? I am not in a position to determine that or speculate.

On how a solution to the problem of the suburb [southern suburb of Beirut] is linked to the hostage problem, Shams al-Din said: I cannot answer this question. I, however, do not see any clear link between the two matters. [passage omitted].

On the future of Lebanese-Iranian relations in the light of his recent visit to Tehran, he said: With regard to Lebanese-Iranian relations, their prospects are reflected in Iran's official position on the present crisis—it adopts a general Islamic position based on the grounds that Prime Minister Salim al-Huss' government is the legitimate one. I believe that the future of Lebanese-Iranian relations will be influenced by the nature of the decision to end the crisis: Will it end with a political reform program or not? [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the mechanism of a solution to the Amal-Hizballah dispute and whether such a solution includes the latter's return to the south, Shams al-Din said: It was, and still is, supposed that we would agree on the elements of such a mechanism here in Beirut after the Iranian envoy's arrival to take some measures in the field. An agreement has been reached on a general and fundamental orientation and on the broad lines of the dispute, which, God willing, will be resolved. [passage omitted]

Hizballah To Use Hostage 'Card' in Amal Battle

NC1201152889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM news agency has reported that the Hizballah command was informed by its security organ 2 days ago that the Syrians have made a secret decision to terminate Hizballah's role by eliminating its cadres in Lebanon. According to the news agency, the Amal Movement will move the battles from the South to West Beirut and the southern suburb after eliminating Hizballah's presence in the South for good.

Hizballah has declared a general alert in its ranks throughout Lebanon, including Al-Biqa'. The party has also reinforced the guards of the foreign hostages it is holding. Security reports received by AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said that the hostages who were in Al-Biqa' have been taken to West Beirut and the southern suburb, following a decision by the Hizballah command. The command also resolved to enter into a confrontation, regardless of the price, to launch guerrilla warfare, and to implement a campaign of assassination against Amal members and the Syrian forces if the latter intervene directly in the conflict raging in the Shi'ite arena.

Hizballah has also decided to use the hostages as an important card, in the event that the party's presence in the southern suburb and West Beirut becomes threatened, on the basis of the principle that "If I fall, my enemies fall with me."

Official To Attend Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting

NC1201100589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] According to a report we have just received, the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has cabled Lebanon's permanent delegate to the Arab League, Ambassador Sulayman Farah, informing him that at the request of and in response to appeals by some Arab brothers, Lebanon has decided to attend the Arab foreign ministers' meeting as a listener [mustami']. Ambassador Farah will represent Lebanon at the meeting.

Clan Member To Defend 'Innocence' in Pan Am Crash

NC0601183489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] The Ja'far clan in Ba'labakk has been alerted [ustunfirat] to defend the innocence of one of its members [Khalid Ja'far] whose name was mentioned after the explosion of the Pan Am airliner over Scotland.

Amal Calls General Strike To Mark 'Black Saturday'

NC1101123189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The Amal Movement leaders have issued the following appeal:

To mark the passage of 1 week since the Black Saturday massacre in the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah was committed by the renegades and impostors, who ravaged the villages and treacherously and heinously assassinated the populace in their homes in a most grotesque crime against mankind, and to denounce the assassination of the party mujahidin, the symbols of resistance, and the attack on ambulances and civil defense teams, the Amal Movement calls on all Lebanese sects and all nationalist parties to take part in a national general strike on Friday 13 January 1989. Hospitals, pharmacies, bakeries, restaurants, and hotels are exempted.

The Amal Movement calls on the nationalist and Islamic forces in Lebanon and in the diaspora, as well as the Arab and Islamic world and international bodies, to demonstrate their denunciation and condemnation of this neo-Nazism which has distorted Lebanese, Arab, Islamic, and Shi'ite history.

Reportage on Tension Between Amal, Hizballah

Situation Has 'Deteriorated'

NC1101141989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The security situation in the Burj Abu Haydar and Al-Musaytibah areas of West Beirut deteriorated shortly after 1400 today in the wake of a shooting incident near the Iranian chancellery. An Amal Movement source said one of its gunmen was fired on by persons riding in a car coming from the direction of the Iranian chancellery building in Burj Abu Haydar. However, a responsible source in Hizballah attributed the tension to an attempt by Amal gunmen to kidnap one of its members.

Amal Detains Gunmen in Tyre

NC1101191689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] REUTER NEWS AGENCY has quoted security sources in Tyre as saying that the Amal Movement stormed hideouts of Hizballah gunmen, detained 15 of them, and confiscated heavy-caliber machienguns, mortars, and ammunition.

Casualty Toll Updated

NC1201071389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] According to the most recent security reports from the South, fighting between Amal and Hizballah fighters has abated along the combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Meanwhile, troop concentrations have been spotted along the lines of Al-Luwayzah, Jarju', Jba', 'Arab Salim, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Kafr Killa.

The same reports indicate that Amal movement fighters have gained control of the western part of Jba' and that some 20 Hizballah fighters have taken position in the town's school. The Amal fighters stress that they are waiting for better weather before they launch their awaited offensive to regain Jba' and gain control of the Hizballah positions in 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Jabal Safi. [passage omitted]

Citing security sources, REUTER reports that 32 Amal fighters, 21 Hizballah fighters, and 7 civilians have been killed and 67 others wounded in the bloody fighting that has been raging between Amal and Hizballah since Saturday.

Amal Launches Offensive on Jba'

NC1201094489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0930 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from Iqlim al-Tuffah, the Nabih Birri groups have begun a wide-scale offensive against the positions and mujahidin of the Islamic resistance in Jba' from two axes: the Kafr Fila-Jba' axis and the 'Ayn Qana-Jba' axis. Tanks, rocket launchers, flat-trajectory weapons, and mortars are being used in the offensive.

An official Hizballah source has confirmed the report and added that the Hizballah fighters are confronting the invaders. The Hizballah official stressed that all attacks will founder on the solid positions of our fighters.

Clashes in South Abate

NC1201131389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The bloody war between the Amal Movement and Hizballah raging in the Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah intensified this morning but abated after an Amal attack. Amal sources said that the aim of the attack was to seize control of Jba' and end the Hizballah presence in the South. Hizballah said its fighters repulsed the attack and that none of its positions in Jba' had been penetrated. Tanks, rocket launchers, and heavy artillery were used in the battles.

'Fierce' Fighting in Jba'

NC1201142789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] REUTER has reported that fierce house-to-house fighting raged in the narrow alleys of Jba' town today. It added that clouds of black smoke covered the village during exchanges of rocket and machinegun fire between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the village streets.

REUTER cited Amal sources in the region as saying that one of their fighters was killed and four others were wounded. The agency also cited an Amal official in the area as saying: We are advancing inside Jba' township. The time factor with regard to the achievement of our goals is not important. REUTER also reported that Hizballah fighters are still in some parts of Jba' after reinforcements were brought in from the Al-Biqa' region.

Reportage on Raids by Israeli Aircraft

Camps in Sidon Raided

NC1101192389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been conducting raids on the Sidon camps since 2105 today. Although sounds of explosions can be heard, reports have not yet indicated whether the raids are mock or concentrated real raids.

Abu Nidal Base Hit

NC1101195089 Paris AFP in English 1943 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Jan 11 (AFP)—Israeli warplanes raided a base used by Abu Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna's] Palestinian guerrilla group in South Lebanon on Wednesday night, Lebanese police said.

The air strike at Bqusta, northeast of this coastal city, was the first by Israel this year. It targeted positions of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, an extremist Palestinian faction, the police said.

Explosions Heard Near Karkha

NC1101195589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The sounds of successive explosions have been heard in the area east of Sidon, particularly near the town of Karkha, which faces the Kafr Falus frontline. Reports say that the explosions resulted from Israeli raids. Israeli warplanes are flying over the Sidon area and using flares. Antiaircraft fire is confronting the planes.

Fatah Position Attacked

NC1101203589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Two Israeli warplanes raided a position of the Fatah Revolutionary Council in Wadi Majdalyun in Bqusta east of Sidon at 2100 today. Our correspondent reported that the raid was conducted in two phases and that it lasted from 2058 until 2110. After the raid, the Israeli planes conducted reconnaissance flights over the area.

Old 'Abra Area Raided

NC1101222089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Zionist enemy aircraft attacked the old 'Abra area east of Sidon in surprise raids at 2107 today. The planes carried out three raids, firing three heavy-caliber missiles. Columns of smoke and fire were seen over the area and ambulances proceeded to the scene.

East of Sidon Pounded

NC1201085589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0852 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] We have just received a report from our newsdesk: We have just learned that Israeli warplanes have been carrying out raids against armed and military positions in 'Alman and (Kafr Habil) townships to the east of Sidon.

More Towns Attacked

NC1201091189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0902 GMT 12 Jan 89W

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided the areas of 'Abra and Wadi (al-Qastal) to the north of the Sidon road and majdalyun east of Sidon at 1003 today. Columns of black smoke were seen billowing from the area.

Abu Nidal Positions Destroyed

NC1201092789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] At approximately 1010 today, a formation of Israeli warplanes raided positions belonging to Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] in Wadi Majdalyun-Bqusta, 4 kilometers northeast of Sidon. These positions were the target of a similar raid by Israeli helicopters last night. According to information, the Israeli formation fired 4 air-to-surface missiles at the Palestinian positions, destroying their targets. The raid was preceded by Israeli mock raids over Sidon and the Palestinian camps.

Sound Barrier Broken

NC1201120389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1158 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut and the coast a short while ago.

Spokesman Welcomes Paris Conference Statement

JN1101160289 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, 11 Jan (SANA)—Commenting on the conference's final statement, a spokesman for the Syrian delegation to the Paris conference on banning chemical weapons made a statement in which he said:

Syria has a vital national interest not only in banning chemical weapons, but also in banning all other weapons of mass destruction in our region in particular and in the world in general.

In view of this, the Syrian Arab Republic expresses its acceptance of and welcome for the conference's final declaration. It considers its sixth clause in particular a support for its position, which it expressed during the conference prodceedings and discussions, on the need to connect banning chemical weapons and nuclear weapons according to the priorities mentioned in Clause 45 of the final document issued by the UN General Assembly's first extraordinary session on disarmament in 1978.

Visiting U.S. Senators Meet With Hafiz al-Asad

JN1101124589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1200 today a U.S. Congressional delegation comprising Senator Nancy Kassebaum and Senator John McCain. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Syria Edward Djerejian. The talks centered on the situation in the region. His excellency the president stressed the importance of the international conference in bringing about a just and comprehensive peace in the region and the need for international action to avert the danger of weapons that threaten mankind.

See People's Assembly Speaker

JN1101193089 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah this morning received the two visiting U.S. senators. Shakir Sa'id, chairman of the council's Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus attended.

The conversation dealt with some parliamentary issues of common concern. The People's Assembly speaker gave an idea about parliamentary life in Syria and its historical development and constitutional institutions, particularly after the establishment of the People's Assembly following the corrective movement, led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. The visiting delegation expressed happiness over visiting Syria.

This evening, Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, received the U.S. congressional delegation. Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus attended. They reviewed the situation in the Arab region.

Prime Minister Meets, Praises Media Personnel

JN1101150089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this morning met with those working in the field of news media and information at the Information Ministry in the presence of Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Muhammad Salman, information minister; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Antoine Jubran, minister of industry.

The information minister welcomed the prime minister, who was anxious to meet the media men because of the important role played by information and media men in their observance of censorship regulations and in their efforts to highlight the civilized image of Syria and the comprehensive renaissance accomplished in Syria under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Afterward, the prime minister spoke and explained the government's policy and plans regarding all agricultural, industrial, cultural, and service areas, as well as the main orientations governing this policy—the orientations based on the resolutions taken by the congresses of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the directives of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

The prime minister explained what has been achieved on the level of work and the enhancement and increase of production at all sites and areas, especially in the field of scoring better positive results regarding the agricultural issue and in the field of bringing about an ideal operation of our plants and factories, and regarding surmounting the several difficulties that used to confront the issue of construction and development. The prime minister affirmed the strength of our national economy and asserted that it will continue to be bolstered and enhanced.

He paid tribute to the role of information and media men and to their commitment to issues of concern to the homeland and citizens. He also praised their defense of their nation's causes through the various media organs, and he paid tribute to their efforts to explain and highlight the stands of Al-Asad's Syria on various issues. He valued their intellectual and literary gifts and their artistic production affirming the need to exert further efforts and endeavors to bring about better results that would enable them to play the pan-Arab and national role required of them—the role that would also meet the citizens' ambitions and aspirations. Afterward, the prime minister and cabinet ministers answered the questions raised.

Afghanistan

Leaders Mark State Security Ministry Anniversary

LD1101211289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The 9th anniversary of the establishment of the Ministry of State Security of the Republic of Afghanistan was marked today with great ceremony. Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, PDPA general secretary, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, attended the meeting. Esteemed Najibullah was greeted by Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, the minister of state security, and the ministry's leadership in front of the Ministry of State Security's conference hall. Esteemed Najibullah responded to the salute of the Presidency's Guard of Honor and inspected it.

The meeting was also attended by Lt Gen Muhammad Rafi', the vice president; Muhamad Hasan Sharq, the prime minister; Lt Gen Shahnawaz Tanay, the defense minister; Maj Gen Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, the minister of internal affairs; Maj Gen 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi, head of the Armed Forces Department of the PDPA Central Comnmittee; representatives of the social organizations and leadership and officials of the Ministry of State Security.

The audience received Esteemed Najibullah with applause and slogans when he entered the hall. After the Afghan national anthem was played Lt Gen Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi opened the meeting. He also delivered the guiding speech, part of which follows:

Dear comrades and fighters of the Ministry of State Security. Exactly 9 years ago on 12 January 1980, the Ministry of State Security, then called State Information Services, was established in keeping with the declaration of the Afghan Revolutionary Council. It quickly became a confidant guardian of the independence and national sovereignty of the country. Now we mark its 9th anniversary. As we celebrate its 9th anniversary, we find ourselves stronger than ever against the irreconcilable extremists, the enemies of national reconciliation, and supporters of reactionaries and imperialists.

The participants of the meeting observe 1 minute's silence to respect the holy souls of the martyrs of the revolution. Lt Gen Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, the minister of state security, in his report talked about the ministry's activities with regard to implementing national reconciliation and Afghanistan's security. He promised the Afghan leadership and the PDPA Central Committee headed by Esteemed Najibullah to fight with gallantry and sacrifice until final victory is achieved in implementing the policy of national reconciliation, securing peace in the country, and resolutely defending the decision and resolutions of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistgan. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Najibullah delivered an instructive speech. Addressing officials of the Ministry of State Security, he said it gives great pleasure to the officials of the Ministry of State Security to have their everyday activities directed toward defending the lofty interests of the country and people. History clearly shows that the Ministry of State Security has carried out its duties with devoted selflessness and honesty in order to defend the party, state, people, and national reconciliation policy. It has a special place in defending the country and maintaining peace and state sovereignty.

At the end of his speech Esteemed Najibullah said the cause of the people of Afghanistan is righteous because its peaceful prospect entails the progress and development of the Republic. Light, knowledge, and good have overtaken darkness, ignorance, and evil in the course of mankind's history. The implementation of the national reconciliation policy brings the good news of peace and calm for Afghanistan. National reconciliation, the indispensable reality of our society, is the alternative to fratricidal war. National reconciliation succeeds because it is defended by the people, the Armed Forces, and the heroic officials of the Ministry of State Security. We continue on with confidence and hope. [passage omitted]

On the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the establishment of the Ministry of State Security, the title of "Hero of Afghanistan" was bestowed on a number of the Minsitry of State Security officers who have shown merit, gallantry, and bravery in the discharge of their duties.

After the ceremonies, Esteemed Najibullah went to the hospital of state security and asked about the health of the patients and awarded them the Republic of Afghanistan medals and orders.

Congratulatory Messages Sent to Heng Samrin

LD0701070889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 6, BAKHTAR—President of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA CC, Najibullah and prime minister, Dr. M. Hasan Sharq have recently sent congratulatory messages to Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea and president of the State's Council of Kampuchea, as well as Hun Sen, prime minister of that country on the occasion of the 10th aniversary of the National Day of Kampuchea.

While expressing best wishes of the state, government and people of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) to the State Council, government and brotherly people of Kampuchea the messages feel confident that the humanistic policy of national reconciliation in Afghanistan and Kampuchea will bring forth peace and prosperity for the peoples of both countries.

The messages stress that the friendly relations between the two countries will further strengthen and develop in the interests of the people of the RA and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, peace and security in the region and the world as well.

Zahir Shah: Timetable for Return 'Undesirable'

PM1201091989 Madrid ABC in Spanish
19 Dec 88 pp 36-37

[Interview with former King Zahir Shah by Miguel Castellvi in Rome; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Castellvi] What solution does Your Majesty propose for ending the war and bringing peace to Afghanistan?

[Zahir Shah] My involvement in my fellow countrymen's attempts to resolve Afghanistan's problems and to ensure its independence and territorial integrity and the Afghan people's right to self-determination is solely an act of patriotism. I set no conditions and have no personal demands. There will have to be a Loya Jirgah—a Grand Assembly of all the representatives, all the leaders of the people—to decide on the provisional government and the country's future.

[Castellvi] Is it possible that the Red Army's withdrawal will not end in a bloodbath?

[Zahir Shah] I do not believe there will be a bloodbath. Incidents and clashes will certainly occur, but they will be local matters. It is always difficult to make forecasts, but the basic prerequisite is that there be no foreign interference. In Afghanistan everybody is weary of this war, and I believe that this war has shown one thing: Peace cannot exist in a region if it does not exist in the neighboring regions.

[Castellvi] What has been the resistance's role?

[Zahir Shah] The mujahidin embody the will of the Afghan people—a people who reject an ideology which conflicts with our religious faith and with our national traditions. The people were unable to tolerate the Soviet Armed Forces' unacceptable presence on Afghan soil. I have constant contacts with the mujahidin; I support their actions. I am striving to create the greatest possible unity among them, because the viewpoints which they hold in common and which unite them are numerous.

[Castellvi] What is the current relationship between the communists and the country?

[Zahir Shah] Since the communists' seizure of power and since the invasion by the Soviet Union, many changes have occurred in the Communist Party leadership in Kabul. These people will be judged by history, not by me. However, certainly everybody can see that the events, the war, and the Afghan people's massive rebellion show what the real relations are between the Communist Party, backed by the Red Army, and the Afghan people.

[Castellvi] How will relations be between the Soviet Union and a free and independent Afghanistan?

[Zahir Shah] I believe that the new Afghanistan, when it finds its independence, will have to continue along the path of the nonaligned countries. The new Afghanistan will have to maintain good relations with all countries in the region, including the Soviet Union.

[Castellvi] In conclusion, does Your Majesty expect to return to Kabul soon?

[Zahir Shah] After so many years, I am very homesick for my country, and the desire to return is even stronger since I have been able to ascertain the people's well-disposed attitude to me. However, it is not desirable to prepare a timetable for my return.

Military Chief Says Kabul-Hayratan Highway Open

LD1101204989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The Kabul-Hayratan highway is open to traffic. In reply to a BIA correspondent's question, Major General Muhammad Asef Delawar, chief of the General Staff of Afghanistan's Armed Forces, said the following about the situation on the Kabul-Hayratan highway:

The Kabul-Hayratan highway, which plays an important role in our economy, is open to traffic. However, armed extremist groups—the opposition supported by the reactionary Pakistani and U.S. circles—intend to launch attacks and plunder the supply convoys. They are making futile efforts to close this great and vital highway, putting Kabul's citizens under seige.

Our Armed Forces will administer a sharp lesson to the armed opposition groups which do not accept the Afghanistan Government's constructive and peaceful proposals for ending war and fratricide in the country. The extremists are obstructing normal travel by government and private vehicles along the Salang highway.

Our noble and Muslim compatriots can fully trust their Armed Forces. The Republic of Afghanistan heroic Armed Forces have always tried to provide the conditions for normal work and a peaceful life for their compatriots.

The Armed Forces chief of the General Staff added: At present most military transport vehicles carrying the primary commodities needed by Kabul's inhabitants and citizens from the Hayratan border to the city of Kabul. This operation will be expanded in the future.

178th Violations Notice Submitted to UN Mission

LD1101071389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 10, BAKHTAR—The 178th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) on the Pakistani violations from the Second Article of the Document Number One of the Geneva accords was submitted here today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), reports the Liaison Office of the Foreign Ministry with the UNGOMAP.

The notice gave all-sided information on the seventeen cases of violation and asked the mission to assess the violations on the basis of Item Number Seven, Document Number Four of the Geneva agreements.

Operations Against 'Extremist' Groups Detailed

LD1101043689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Quoting authoritative Armed Forces sources, BAKHTAR reports that in their own defense of the calm and security of our compatriots, the Armed Forces in Nangarhar, Qandahar, and Herat Provinces carried out a number of operations against extremist bases and hideouts. As a result, several extremists were either crushed or injured.

In operations launched in reponse to the ruthless attacks in Takhteh Pol Subdistrict and in Daman, Arghandab, and Maywand Districts, a large number of bandits, including two of their ringleaders, named (Torkhan) and (Akhtar Muhammad), were killed and several others injured. In the course of the operations, 2 of the extremists' rocket launchers, 2 mortar launchers, 2 DShK's and 18 bunkers were destroyed, and 12 boxes of DShK's, 7 boxes of light-weapons ammunition, 50 mortar shells, and 70 hand grenades were seized.

In similar operations carried out in Khugianay District and Chaparhar Subdistrict in Nangarhar, in Enjil and Shindand Districts in Herat, and in Khowst Major District and Shakar Darreh District in Kabul, several cease-fire violaters were either killed or wounded and a much of their ammunition was destroyed.

The report adds that the extremists have suffered heavy casualties resulting from internecine clashes caused by differences among the belligerent groups. In clashes among the Gulbuddin, Sayyaf, Khalis, and Gaylani groups in Maywand and Daman Districts, 12 extremists were killed and 10 others wounded. In similar clashes between groups associated with Gulbuddin and Muhammadi in the Khanabad and (Gortepa) Districts of Konduz Province, three people were killed and three others injured.

In clashes between groups associated with Mohseni and (Sepah) in the Nawah District of Ghazni, 80 members of the (Sepah) group and 2 members of the Mohseni group were killed. Three vehicles owned by the Sayyaf and Mohseni groups were destroyed by mines planted by a rival (Sayd Hashem) group and Gulbuddin-associated groups in Zabol. Three guards in the vehicles were killed.

17 'Compatriots' Injured in Herat Explosion

LD1101162289 Kabul Domestic in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] A BIA military correspondent reports that, supported by the United States and Pakistan, criminal extremists today injured 17 compatriots in the city of Herat by placing explosive material inside a transport vehicle. The explosion occurred around noon.

Security Officials Seize Missiles in Kabul

LD1101162589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Ministry of State Security personnel seized 20 surface-to-surface missiles, thus preventing the occurrance of sorrowful deeds in the city of Kabul. The BIA military correspondent reports that the missiles had been placed in the Pol-e Charkhi area by members of Gulbuddin's extremist group and were ready for launching against residential areas in Kabul.

Armed Forces Operations Against Mujahidin Noted

LD1101174789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Quoting authorized sources in the country's Armed Forces, BAKHTAR reports that Armed Forces units and companies, in response to enemy attack and in order to defend our compatriots, have carried out mopping-up operations over the last 24 hours in Nangarhar, Qandahar, and Parvan Provinces as a result of which dozens of armed members of the extremist groups and opposition have been crushed and a number have been injured.

The Armed Forces units launched heavy attacks on extremist centers in the Daman, Arghandab, and Takhteh Pol Districts as a result of which a large number of extremists including two foreign advisers were killed and a number of others were severely wounded. Seven boxes of assorted weapons and ammunition including two boxes of hand grenades were destroyed.

As a result of a mopping-up operation in villages in Parvan Province, a number of extremists were crushed and a number injured. A large quantity of weapons and ammunition including two enemy hideouts were destroyed.

As a result of internecine armed clashes which took place recently in Bagrami District [Kabul Province], Alingar District, Laghman Province and Daman District, Qandahar Province and in Shiveh District, Nangarhar Province between the Gulbuddin, Khalis and Mujadeddi groups, 23 people have been killed from all sides and another 15 were wounded.

HEYWAD Editorial Cited on Talks With Rebels

LD1101072189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 10, BAKHTAR—A full round of talks with the Afghan opposition groups has ended recently. Talks in Al-Ta'if, Rome, Tehran and Islamabad have entered for the first time a new serious stage, writes an editorial covered by daily HEYWAD.

Quoting President Najibullah the editorial writes: "The best and the most practical way for solution of the Afghanistan problem is holding talks between all persons, groups and political parties inside as well as outside the country".

The editorial asks a question "what do the Afghans want?"

Surely, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) wants that an end should be put to war and fratricide among the Afghans. Thus, the RA has announced the national reconciliation policy which includes interest of all strata of the Afghan society. Furthermore the state of the RA has proposed an extensive dialogue without any conditions for realization of the objectives of the national accord.

The editorial asks again a similar question "what does the Soviet side want to do"?

In reply to the question the editorial says that the Soviet Union as a guarantor, in full understanding and conformity with the Afghan side, has made every efforts to bring all Afghans around a negotiation table for a peaceful settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. The editorial adds that the Afghans have witnessed that the Soviet Union has fulfilled its commitments in regard to the Geneva accords and achieving peace in the country.

The Al-Ta'if, Tehran and Islamabad talks have shown that the seven and eight alliance is a collection of divided and different forces which had no specific views at the talks. They have also confessed themselves to the fact. Al-Ta'if and Islamabad talks have shown that differences increase among the various extremist groups by each passing day.

During the talks, the editorial says, the seven alliance did not agree with the proposed ceasefire. Their views showed that war should be continued in Afghanistan.

The editorial stressed that the people of Afghanistan inflicted heavy blows upon the extremists in Qandahar, Nangarhar and Zabol Provinces and experiences of the said provinces have shown that war means complete destruction of the extremists.

Bangladesh

Striking Transport Workers Warned of Legal Action

BK1101161089 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The government has served show-cause notice on Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik [Road Transport Workers] Federation [BSPSF] for disrupting public life through illegal strike. An official handout issued in Dhaka today says the federation has been asked to explain to the government within 3 days as to why legal action will not be take for such strike. It further says under the relevant ordinance, the observance of strike by BSPSF is a punishable offense and contrary to the existing labor law.

U.S. Congressman Solarz Arrives in Dhaka 11 Jan

BK1101140989 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] The chairman of the United States House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific region, Mr Stephen Solarz, is now in Dhaka on a 3-day visit. Two other Congressmen, Mr Chester Atkins and Mr Ted Weiss, are accompanying him. Mr Solarz took a leading role in piloting a bill in the House for assistance and solved the flood problem of Bangladesh. [sentence as heard].

India

Probe of Alleged U.S. Nuclear Dumping Urged

BK1201033889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The Janata Dal has urged the government to find out the truth about a press report that a U.S. ship has dumped nuclear waste into the Indian Ocean. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi yesterday, its vice president, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, requested the prime minister that nuclear experts from India should be asked to find out the truth.

Gandhi on Troop Withdrawal From Sri Lanka

BK1101124789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister has said the Peacekeeping Force will be withdrawn from Sri Lanka as the situation normalizes in the island. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking to newsmen at Kanyakumari today.

He said the nationalization of rivers in the country is a difficult task and the Water Management Board will look into it. The prime minister said the Suman Dubey committee will go into the price rise of newsprint and steps will be taken to help small newspapers.

He said the Lok Sabha elections will be held as scheduled.

Sri Lankan President Urged Not To Scrap Accord

BK1101122589 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 22 Dec 88 p 11

[Editorial: "President Premadasa"]

[Text] Even though Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa's victory in the country's Presidential election does not come as a surprise, it is clear from the result that his main rival in the poll, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP] leader, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, has given him a run for his money. What seems to have tipped the scales in favour of the ruling United National Party [UNP] candidate is his and the UNP's ability to retain Sinhalese support without wholly alienating the Tamil minority. This became possible because, while the UNP manifesto broadly backed the Indo-Sri Lanka accord and a continuing Indo-Sri Lankan approach to resolving the island's ethnic conflict, Mr Premadasa himself on the stump left no one in doubt that he would scrap the accord.

Likewise, while the party's platform spoke of seeking the withdrawal of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force [IPKF] when normality returns to the north and east of the island, Mr Premadasa promised the immediate pull-out of the IPKF. Thanks to this dualism, he was able both to eat his cake and have it. Mrs Bandaranaike and the SLFP's more strident, if less equivocal, campaign rhetoric not only ensured the loss of the Tamil vote, but also appears to have frightened off not a few Sinhalese voters. The impressive turnout for the contest, even in areas where the extremist Sinhalese party, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP], holds sway and despite the general air of intimidation generated by JVP—organised murder and mayhem, especially in the Sinhalese-dominated regions of the country in the south and south-east, is a reassuring affirmation of the people's desire for peace and stability.

Ordinary Sinhalese and Tamils have sent out a message that the sooner the country's normal political processes are restored, the sooner sanity can return to daily life and the sooner the country's accumulating economic ills no less than its long-suppurating ethnic malaises can be cured. All the more reason, then, to welcome President Jayewardene's decision, in keeping with the promise he had made, to dissolve the country's Parliament and call general elections in February. The imposition of an indefinite curfew throughout the country does not militate against the restoration of democratic processes. So long as the country remains vulnerable to violent and bloody conflict, no chances can or should be taken with law and order.

That, however, does not mean that the country's representative institutions and systems should not go on functioning. After all, the last time the people of Sri Lanka chose their parliamentary representatives was as far back as in 1977 (their tenure was subsequently extended in a controversial referendum) and the need to give them an opportunity to do so again is long overdue.

With a new President and, from next February onwards, a new Parliament, attention will focus on the measures the victors take to stem the terrible bloodletting in the country and devise enduring and acceptable political solutions. Will Mr Premadasa be as good as his word, repudiate the Indo-Sri Lanka accord and tell the IPKF to pack up and leave? Were he to act thus, he would not only be misreading the signals of the presidential poll but, what is more dangerous, he would also be jeopardising such partial political recovery as is taking place in Sri Lanka as a result of the successful conclusion of, first, the provincial elections, including especially in the preponderantly Tamil north and east, then the presidential poll, and finally, so it must be hoped in anticipation, parliamentary contests.

It has been argued that Mr Premadasa's victory will, to some extent, mean the stealing of the JVP's thunder insofar as he has spoken in not dissimilar accents about the ethnic issue. But the JVP is unlikely to shed its disruptionist and violent politics to help a UNP leader out. What is more, even if it does, where does that leave the Tamils? Mr Premadasa, now that he has won, has to try and make himself acceptable to all Sri Lankans, not just the Sinhalese majority, if he is to heal the deep wounds of protracted sectarian strife. Were he to reject the Indo-Sri Lanka accord summarily and demand the immediate return to India of the IPKF, he would convince the Tamils that he is against them and bent on undoing whatever concessions they have wrested after so bitter and prolonged a struggle.

The IPKF's withdrawal before the consolidation of the political gains that have been made so far at least partly because of its presence will thrust on the Sri Lanka army the task of containing both the LTTE in the north and east (and the LTTE will no longer lie low, as it is now forced to do because of the IPKF's vigilance) and the JVP in the south and south-east. The Sri Lankan security forces, by any reckoning, are unequal to the task. What Mr Premadasa would be courting by such precipitate action motivated by a dangerous chauvinism would be the kind of subversive instability that would soon tear Sri Lanka apart in bloody, sectarian chaos.

Mr Premadasa will no doubt soon realise that the cares of presidential office do not allow indulgence in the kind of populist sentiment which he has stirred up so far. It is in New Delhi's and the entire region's interest to see that such a realisation and the political caution that flows from it are not too long in the coming.

Natwar Singh Meets Sihanouk, Ali Alatas

BK1201093489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, has expressed the hope that a satisfactory solution to the Cambodian issue will be found this year.

Mr Natwar Singh, now in Paris, was talking to newsmen last night after holding talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the foreign minister of Indonesia, Mr Ali Alatas, on the issue. The Indonesian foreign minister was instrumental in arranging the Jakarta Informal Meeting between the various Cambodian factions.

Talks Begin on Soviet Power Sector Assistance

BK0901125289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] India and the Soviet Union today began talks in New Delhi on further strengthening cooperation in the power sector. The joint working group will identify new areas of collaboration and review the implementation of the power projects taken up with Soviet assistance. The talks are expected to last a week. The Soviet Union has already offered India assistance for creating an additional capacity of 6,000 megawatts by the year 2000. Projects with an aggregate capacity of 3,270 megawatts have already been identified for implementation during the eighth [5-year development] plan.

Talks Held With UK on Oil Cooperation

BK1001090889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] India and Britain are to strengthen cooperation in the oil sector. Specific areas of cooperation were discussed at a meeting in New Delhi today between the British minister of state for energy, Mr Peter Morrison, and the minister of state for petroleum and natural gas, Mr Brahm Dutt [title as heard]. Mr Brahm Dutt said India has made rapid strides in the exploitation of oil and gas reserves.

Private Research With Foreign Aid Allowed

BK0901042589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] The government has decided to allow the private sector to take up scientific research and development [R&D] with international collaboration. At present, such cooperation on government-to-government basis is restricted to areas like space and oceanography. According to official sources, the new guidelines issued for this aim at only supplementing the indigenous R&D efforts.

Sikhs Vow To Continue Confronting Gandhi

BK1101145289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 11 (AFP)—Sikhs will continue to confront the government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi until he repents past "mistakes" against the community, the head of the Golden Temple here said Wednesday.

Darshan Singh told a meeting of several hundred Sikhs that "brave Sikhs would continue to be born to maintain the dignity of the Golden Temple."

The gathering shouted militant slogans during the meeting, held to mourn Friday's hanging of Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh for the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, mother of Rajiv Gandhi.

Satwant Singh shot dead Mrs. Gandhi four months after she ordered the Army to flush out Sikh militants from the Golden Temple, Sikhdom's holiest shrine.

Nearly 650 people, mostly Sikhs, died in the Army operation that caused extensive damage to the shrine.

Mr. Darshan Singh referred to the June 1984 Army assault on the temple as one of the "mistakes," although it was carried out before Mr. Gandhi became prime minister.

He described the two Sikhs executed last week as "brave soldiers" of the Sikh community and said their "services will be remembered by future generations while those who hanged them will be forgotten."

Mr. Darshan Singh, head priest of the Golden Temple, had ended a 48-hour recitation of holy scriptures in memory of Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh.

Sikh political leaders and separatists had warned of a bloodbath if the two were executed. They have also repeatedly called for punishment for those who killed more than 2,700 Sikhs in nationwide riots after Mrs. Gandhi's murder.

Mr. Darshan Singh, in keeping with Sikh tradition, last month ordered former Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala to do penance at a temple for ordering policemen into the Golden Temple in 1986.

Mr. Barnala was tied to a pillar, asked to sweep the floors of a Sikh shrine and dust the shoes of devotees.

Police Bust 'Spy Gang' in Punjab, Arrest 4

BK1201033589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, the Ferozepore police has busted a spy gang with the arrest of four of its members. A large quantity of arms and ammunition and some incriminating documents were recovered from their possession. The gang was supplying secret information to a foreign country.

19 More 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab

BK1101162789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, 19 more terrorists have been arrested from different places since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, seven hard-core terrorists were arrested from Ajnala and five from Jandiala areas of Amritsar District after a brief encounter today. They were involved in a number of terrorist crimes, including the recent killing of six innocent persons in the district.

Five hard-core terrorists were arrested in Phagwara area of Kapurthala and two in Ludhiana District yesterday. The security forces also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the arrested terrorists.

Two terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces near Payal in Ludhiana District last night.

'Terrorists' Kill 11 in Gurdaspur, Amritsar

BK1201085589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, 11 persons have been killed by terrorists in separate incidents since last night. Terrorists shot dead three members of a family in village Atwal and hanged to death four others in village Pujiawali in Gurdaspur District. Police have recovered two bodies from the same district. One person was shot dead in Ferozepore District and another in Amritsar District.

Air Force Trainer Aircraft Crashes; 2 Killed

BK1201085789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The pilot and an instructor of an Indian Air Force trainer aircraft were killed when the plane crashed on the outskirts of Madras this morning. According to the police, the plane was on a training sortie when the mishap occurred. The cause of the accident is not known.

Iran

Iraq's 'Aziz 'Implicitly' Admits Use of Toxins

LD1101115189 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 11, IRNA—The Iraqi foreign minister taking part in the Paris international conference on chemical weapons implicitly admitted his country was manufacturing chemical weapons.

Speaking at a press conference as head of the Iraqi delegation he believed there was nothing wrong with producing chemical weapons because there were a number of other states doing the same.

[Tariq] 'Aziz also did not deny his country's use of the weapons and said "we did our best to protect ourselves" against Iranian forces.

The U.N. and other independent bodies have confirmed the wide use of the weapons by Iraqi troops against Iranian forces and against Iraq's own Kurdish population.

Two independent human rights groups Tuesday confirmed Baghdad's repeated use of poison gases both against Iranian forces and against the Kurds in northern Iraq as a result of which they said tens of thousands of innocent civilians had been killed, injured or made homeless.

They also confirmed that West German companies had supplied Iraq with the means to produce chemical weapons whose use is banned under the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

The Iraqi foreign minister accused his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati of making false statements Monday on the peace talks between the two countries.

He said Iran did want peace but only to wage a propaganda campaign against Iraq. The U.S. Security Council resolution, he said, was a peace plan "not a political theater."

Velayati on Monday said at a new conference that the main hurdle to peace and implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 was Iraq's obstruction and its refusal to withdraw its troops from Iran.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said the immediate exchange of war prisoners was much more important than troop withdrawals, despite the contents of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for the pull back of troops before the exchange of POWs.

He said Iraq was prepared to attend a new round of peace talks with Iran in Geneva under the supervision of the U.N. secretary general.

But he did not say how the talks could be productive with all the impediments his country was throwing on the way of a real and comprehensive peace between the two states.

The Iraqi minister also repeated the claim of his country's sovereignty over the Arvand River, or Shatt al-'Arab according to Iraq, but said this did not mean Iran could not use the waterway.

He also said Iraq no longer accepted the 1975 agreement with Iran which according to international law is still valid.

The treaty ceased to exist because he charged that Iran had violated it on several occasions during the imposed war.

He reiterated his country's demand for the dredging of the waterway under the supervision of the U.N. chief.

The legal aspect of the matter, he said could be raised and discussed after the clearing of the Arvand River.

'Aziz said he did not believe there was drastic changes in relations between Iran and the Arab states in the Persian Gulf because according to him they still were "suspicious" about Iran's honesty.

Asked about his country's position on the final declaration of the Paris conference which is expected to condemn the use, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, he only said Iraq would not block the way to the success of the conference.

On the warning to Iraq by the U.S. secretary of state that Baghdad must adhere to the Geneva accord, 'Aziz said George Shultz had "misunderstood" Iraq's position and that he had sent a message to Shultz to clarify the matter.

Iraq Not Named in Draft Document on Toxins

LD1101133989 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 11, IRNA—A draft declaration in conclusion of the five-day 145-nation Paris international conference on chemical weapons today did not name Iraq.

But it has voiced the participants' "serious concern at recent violations as established and condemned by the competent organs of the United Nations."

This is an apparent reference to repeated Iraqi use of chemical weapons against Iran and against its Kurdish population over the past five years, which claimed 50,000 casualties among Iranians alone.

In their speeches, participants, including some 80 foreign ministers, also refrained from naming Iraq after a plea from France not to turn the conference into a "court of justice".

Iran was the only exception.

The draft declaration, which is expected to be approved later today, has also expressed the determination of the 145 nations "to prevent any recourse to chemical weapons by completely eliminating them."

It reaffirms commitment to the 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibiting the use of chemical weapons.

The draft declaration was prepared after long meetings with delegates last night. One sticking point was the Arab countries' insistance that the ban on chemical weapons should be linked to a similar ban on nuclear weapons which Israel is believed to have.

The draft does not include a direct reference to nuclear arms but underlined the need to pursue with determination efforts to secure "general and complete disarmament... so as to endure the right of all states to peace and security."

They stressed the need for concluding, at an early date, a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction.

Chemical Weapons Conference Issues Declaration

LD1101155589 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 11, IRNA—The Paris International Conference on Chemical Weapons Wednesday issued the following declaration:

The representatives of states participating in the conference on prohibition of chemical weapons, bringing together states parties to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and other interested states in Paris from 7 to 11 January 1989, solemnly declare the following:

1. The participating countries are determined to promote international peace and security throughout the world in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and to pursue effective disarmament process.

In this context, they are determined to prevent any recourse to chemical weapons by completely eliminating them. They solemnly affirm their commitments not to use chemical weapons and condemn such use.

They recall their serious concern at recent violations as established and condemned by the competent organs of the United Nations. They support the humanitarian assistance given to the victims effected by chemical weapons.

2. The participating states recognize the importance and continuing validity of the protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and bacteriological methods of warfare, signed on 17 June 1925 in Geneva.

States parties to the protocol solemnly reaffirm the prohibition at established in it. They call upon all states which have not yet done so to accede to the protocol.

3. The participating states stress the necessity of concluding, at an early date, a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction.

This convention shall be global and comprehensive and effectively verifiable. It should be of unlimited duration.

To this end, they call on the conference on disarmament in Geneva to redouble its efforts, as a matter of urgency, to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues and to conclude the convention at the earliest date.

All states are requested to make, in an appropriate way, a significant contribution to the negotiations in Geneva by undertaking efforts in the relevant fields.

The participating states therefore believe that any state wishing to contribute to these negotiations should be able to do so.

In addition, in order to achieve as soon as possible the indispensable universal character of the convention, they call upon all states to become parties thereto as soon as it is concluded.

4. The states participating in the conference are gravely concerned by the growing danger posed to international peace and security by the risk of the use of chemical weapons as long as such weapons remain and are spread.

In this context, they stress the need for an early conclusion and entry into force of the convention, which will be established on a non-discriminatory basis.

They deem it necessary in the meantime, for each states to exercise restraint and to act responsibly in accordance with the purpose of the present declaration.

5. The states participating in the conference confirm their full support for the United Nations in the discharge of its indispensable role, in conformity with its Charter.

They affirm that the United Nations provides a framework and an instrument enabling the international community to exercise vigilance with respect to the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons.

They confirm their support for appropriate and effective steps taken by the United Nations in this respect in conformity with its Charter.

They further reaffirm their full support for the secretary-general in carrying out his responsibilities for investigations in the event of alleged violations of the Geneva protocol.

They express their wish for early completion of the work undertaken to strengthen the efficiency of existing procedures and call for the cooperation of all states, in order to facilitate the action of the secretary-general.

6. The states participating in the conference, recalling the final document of the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1978, underline the need to pursue with determination their efforts to secure general and complete disarmament under effective international control, so as to endure the right of all states to peace and security.

Velayati Briefs Cabinet on Paris Conference

LD1101160389 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today said the Paris conference on chemical weapons has laid the grounds for attracting world opinion to the Iraqi regime's criminal use of toxic gases against both the Iranian and Iraqi peoples.

Then Velayati, briefing the cabinet on the outcome of the Paris conference, noted Iraq's regional and international collaborators had feared the Baghdad regime might be condemned for its repeated violation of the 1925 Geneva convention banning the use of such lethal arms.

The cabinet in the absence of Premier Hoseyn Musavi—presently in Khuzestan—was presided [over] by Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi. The session expressed regret over the continued fighting between Shi'ite Muslim groups in Lebanon describing it as an anticlimax to the Lebanese Muslims' heroic struggle against the Zionist regime.

It also called on all Lebanese Muslims forces to close ranks and turn their rifles at their common foe, the Zionist regime.

Velayati Asserts Support for Libya Against U.S.

LD1001174789 Tripoli JANA in English 1629 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Ay al-Nar [January] 10 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati the foreign minister of the Republic of Iran asserted his country's standing by the side of Great Jamahiriyah in the face of the flagrant U.S. threats.

Velayati told a press conference he held before leaving the French capital and returning home after taking part in the Paris conference on chemical arms "it is not the duty of the U.S. Government to manipulate any issue at all to justify its undisguised aggression against Libya". He said that the American behaviour was in violation of the international law. "The international community was a witness to Libya's continued declaration of its respect for international charters". he said.

FRG Charge Summoned Over Attacks on Iran Air

LD1101181589 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—West German Charge d'Affaires Thomas Tromel was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today and delivered a strongly-worded protest for his government for the recent attacks on Iran Air offices in Frankfurt and Hamburg by a bunch of anti-revolutionaries.

West Germany was informed in advance of the possibility of such attacks but it failed to provide any security measures, said the Foreign Ministry.

"If vandalism goes unpunished, terrorists will be encouraged to commit similar acts," it added.

The German official expressing regret over the issue, said Iran's protest was understandable. "Security measures would be taken and the Islamic Republic would be informed of the results," he assured.

SAIRI: Israeli, Iraqi Foreign Ministers Meet
LD1201113389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] disclosed that the foreign ministers of the Iraqi and the Al-Quds occupying regimes met and conferred this Sunday [8 January] at the residence of the Zionist ambassador in Paris, secretly and amid tight security measures.

Moshe Arens, the new foreign minister of the Al-Quds occupying regime, first met with Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the Egyptian regime's foreign minister, before his meeting with the Iraqi foreign minister. According to the SAIRI report, the foreign ministers of the Iraqi and Zionist regimes discussed Iraq's military and financial assistance to the Phalangist forces in Lebanon, collaboration between the two regimes in crushing Muslim resistance forces in Lebanon, and the extension of the Iraqi oil pipeline to the port of Al-'Aqabah.

Executions Reported in Iraq Despite 'Amnesty'
LD1101152089 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—The number of prisoners in Iraq has sharply increased with scores of inmates being hanged in the southern Iraqi cities despite a general amnesty declared by Baghdad, according to the Iraqi Islamic opposition. A top Iraqi Communist Party official who had returned from self-exile abroad was also arrested, it said.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), said in a statement Wednesday that 72 Iraqis who had surrendered to the security officials after the amnesty were executed in Diwaniyah. Diwaniyah is located 180 kms south of Baghdad in Al-Qadisiyah Province.

The regime also executed 37 Army deserters in Nasiriyah, 350 kms south of the capital, in Dhiqar Province, in recent weeks, the statement said.

"Some, including top Communist Party official 'Abd al-Salam Ibrahim, who had been deceived by Baghdad's so-called general amnesty and had returned home from Sweden were arrested and there is yet no report on their fate," it said.

Meanwhile, SAIRI spokesman Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir Hakim in an interview published in the TEHRAN TIMES Wednesday described the amnesty as a "hoax." "No political prisoners have yet been freed from Iraqi jails," he said.

Hakim said about 40 of his family members and relatives were now in the prisons of the Iraqi regime. Hakim also denied reports that SAIRI would move its headquarters to Damascus where he said the group would only set up an office.

Khomeyni Message to Gorbachev Examined
LD1101221289 Tehran IRNA in English 2056 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in a commentary Wednesday that Imam Khomeyni's message to Gorbachev last week is not truly a political message but more specifically one for ridding the Soviets from "the quagmire of ungodliness" which is the root of their problems. It said the Soviet have realized that communism does not offer them a remedy for their plights, and that therefore, they should consider an alternative to their present ideology before they may find themselves "bogging down into another quagmire prepared for them by the West."

The daily also recalled Fidel Castro's message to his nation on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Cuba's revolution on January 1 quoting him as having said that the Cubans had adopted Marxism as their political ideology simply for want of any better alternative with which to fight capitalism. It said one construction of Castro's statement would be that "basically we do not feel happy with Marxism, but we have taken shelter with it in order to protect ourselves against the evils of capitalism."

The daily reminded that Karl Marx knew nothing about Islam, that his statement that "religion is the opium of the masses" was based simply on his own observation of the various exploitations of Christianity and Judaism against the impoverished masses, and that he had introduced his ideology partly to fight the abuses of religion in the hands of church which encouraged the downtrodden masses to tolerate injustice without complaining in keeping with what had become to be known as the teachings of Jesus Christ.

"Sources informed about developments in Marxism believe that the imam's message to the Soviet leader can act as a lancet on an abscess. The message, they say, is a healing lancet into the old and morbid ideology of Marxism. If the value of this lancet be learned and if it be allowed to remove the sickly abscess of communism from the Russians then the Soviet Union will overtake her Western rival.

"The imam like a skilled doctor who knows both the sickness and the remedy offers an unambiguous remedy for healing the sickness. It is now up to the sick person to agree to take the remedy.

"The West having realized the situation is now trying to pull the Soviets into another quagmire, and in the light of the situation the facts become manifest and the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution sets the proper course before the leaders of the Soviet people, lest they may find themselves bogging down in another quagmire.

"Today the world Muslims take pride in the gesture of their leader and learn that the goal of Islam is to enlighten the minds and win the hearts rather than gain political benefits, which benefits can be eventually gans as a result of acting according to the dictates of Islam, and which will be a by-product of our efforts rather the very goal of religion itself.

"Therefore the imam's message should not be evaluated solely in its political or worldly dimensions. A message written for disproving the philosophy of the materialists should not be evaluated solely within the context of political interests, and on that basis to try to portray the message as the cornerstone of improved economic and political relations between the two countries, as was done by certain print media recently, is to misrepresent the principal aim of the message. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Mujahidin Confident USSR Will Leave Afghanistan

LD1101175289 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—Contrary to outsiders' whims, all Afghan mujahidin groups share the same outlook on the fate of their occupied homeland, said the spokesman of the 8-group coalition today.

Muhammad Karim Khalili who returned here Wednesday from the recent talks with Soviet officials in Islamabad, said "Moscow insists that certain elements of the Kabul regime join the future government in Afghanistan, which was strongly opposed by all groups."

"The mujahidin's emphasis on independance and the Russian's refusal to show flexibility deadlocked the talks, and they (Soviets) were informed of the futility of such negotiations as long as Moscow sticks to its demand," Khalili revealed.

"That's why no time and place was set for the further talks with the Soviets," he added.

The Iran-based Afghan coalition spokesman had headed a delegation to Pakistan to team up with the Peshawar-based seven-party alliance in their direct talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov. The eight-group coalition had earlier exchanged views with Vorontsov in Tehran.

Khalili elsewhere termed Soviet stances towards withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan as "contradictory" which he said reveals Moscow's plan to politically exploit the present situation.

Afghan mujahidin believe that sooner or later Moscow will have to pull back its troops from Afghanistan and cut its support to the installed regime in Kabul, Khalili made it clear.

Commentary on Soviet Withdrawal From Afghanistan

LD1101141189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Political commentary]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In light of recent doubts about the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, a doubt expressed by Kremlin officials and in particular by Vorontsov, it seems that a halt to the war and bloodshed in that country is impossible, at least in the near future. For this reason, amid all the political developments in Afghan issues and political activities which have now lost momentum up to a certain degree, one of the mujahidin leaders has suggested a plan for intensifying military operations, insofar as the rest of the Soviet forces have not left Afghanistan.

In the opinion of the Afghan mujahidin, it is natural that with the presence of 50,000 Soviet troops providing protection for the Kabul regime—reflecting Moscow's insistence on participation of the Kabul regime in the future government of that country—more bloodshed will follow. This issue, at the same time, reveals that the Soviet Union is not ready to end the war in Afghanistan and halt its interventions in the affairs of that country. The same accusation was made by the present leader of the alliance of seven concerning Moscow.

The current dead-end situation on the Afghanistan issue, according to political observers, is caused by the Kremlin's insistence on maintaining the Soviet Union's economic and political interests in Afghanistan, which must be guaranteed following the total and complete withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country. This, in turn, has caused the other superpower to enter the Afghanistan discourse more strongly, thereby adding to the complexity of the issue.

Therefore, it seems that in the current circumstances, Moscow is not that eager to resolve the Afghan issue in political terms, that is, what it had been insisting on itself. In this regard, creating divisions among the Afghan struggling forces is one of the U.S. objectives with regard to Afghanistan's future. The superpowers' wheelings and dealings—in this particular case the agreement over the Afghanistan issue—is their way to control the efforts made by mujahidin during the last 10 years, and thereby establish a government in Afghanistan which is in compliance with their aims and objectives.

The objective of supporting such a government, which is said to include Zahir Shah as the main figure, will not only make Afghanistan seem nonaligned and possesing full sovereignty, but it will also realize the regional objectives of world powers in changing the Islamic identity of the Afghan resistance into a national identity. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Arrives in Lorestan Province

LD1101101289 Tehran IRNA in English 0824 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan Prov., Jan. 11, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i arrived here Wednesday for talks with provincial officials on various local issues.

Khamene'i will also meet martyrs' families and hold public meeting.

A number of presidential advisors and local Majlis deputies are accompanying the president.

Speaks on Islamic 'Utopia'

LD1101121489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpts] We begin this hour's news reports with a report on President Khamene'i's visit to Lorestan Province.

Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, our country's president, arrived in Khorramabad this morning and was welcomed at the airport by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hoseyni-e Mianegi, the imam's representative in Lorestan Province. Mr Khamene'i granted an interview to the Central News Unit's correspondent. In the interview he praised the sacrifices and resistance shown by the people of Lorestan Province during the 8 years of sacred defense. He said the purpose of his trip was to meet with the people of that province and also to review the situation in that province. [passage omitted]

Speaking to a gathering of Khorramabad citizens he said that our objective is to create an Islamic utopia, where there is no poverty, discrimination, illiteracy, or ignorance, a utopia where people possess a high degree of spirituality and all strictures followed. To achieve this objective, the Iranian nation must take steps. The enemy is also aware of this; that was the reason that it imposed the war upon us.

He added that if this nation could—with the blessing of Islam and with God's help—create a comfortable and complete lifestyle without enemy intervention this utopia should become a model and a lesson for the rest of the world. The arrogant powers do not want this to happen.

Mr Khamene'i pointed to the role of people during the course of the imposed war. He said that the war was imposed on us to force the Iranian nation to retreat from its positions, so that the nation extends a helping hand towards East and West. The war was imposed to disappoint people in Islam, and to create distance between the country's people and officials and ultimately between the people and the imam of the ummah. However, the Iranian nation, through its strength, did not allow the aim of the arrogant powers to materialize.

The chairman of Supreme Defense Council continued by describing some of the epics created by the people of various parts of Lorestan Province during the course of the imposed war, such as the people's staging extensive demonstrations while enemy missiles rained down on them. He then pointed to the affairs pertaining to the country's reconstruction and said that even now the enemies, as in the early days of the revolution, are spreading propaganda that the country's problems are not yet resolved while the war has ended.

They think that those problems which have existed during the 8-9 years of war and before it—during 50 years of the foreigners' domination over this country—can be resolved overnight. We stand at the very beginning of our course. Problems do, of course, exist, but in comparison with other war-torn countries' problems, our issues are fewer and of marginal importance.

Central News Unit, Khorramabad

Musavi-Ardabili Comments on Human Rights

LD1201091089 Tehran IRNA in English 0759 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili said the Islamic Republic was prepared to cooperate with international organizations on human rights issues.

But, he added, this would only be possible if the issue was raised in a "principled" manner.

The issue was discussed during a meeting Wednesday with Iran's U.N. Ambassador Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati who briefed the chief justice on the U.N. human rights report on Iran.

The report harshly criticized alleged violations which were firmly denied by Iranian officials at the U.N. and in Tehran.

During a debate on the report in November, Mahallati decribed the report as "useless, totally meaningless and unconstructive" and said Iran and the U.N. should instead cooperate on the matter.

"In order to test the intentions behind the issue and to clarify the truth, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposes a principled cooperation between Iran and the U.N. special representative (on Iran)," he said.

Iran has said such reports often are heavily based on accusations from the Mojahedin-e Khalq terrorist organization based in Baghdad.

Pakistan To Cooperate Against Drug Smuggling

LD1201133289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Iran and Pakistan are to expand their cooperation in combating international drug smugglers, particularly in the border regions between the two countries. According to a Central News Unit report, the Pakistani ambassador in Iran met and conferred with the interior minister, Mr Mohtashemi, on this very subject. In this meeting it was also decided that the ministers of Iran and Pakistan should soon meet in order to exchange views on expanding cooperation between the two countries in order to combat international drug smugglers.

Council of Guardians Notes Election Violations

NC1201080489 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 22 Dec 88 p 14

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In a letter from the Council of Guardians to Speaker of the Islamic Majlis Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the following reasons were given for annulling the elections in Kuhdasht in Lorestan Province:

1. A group of people who were in favor of one of the candidates at one of the resistance bases [as published] was manhandled and beaten during the course of the third round of the midterm elections and furthermore, the Kuhdasht judicial authorities showed an irresponsible attitude in investigating the people's complaints.

2. People were enticed with promises of agricultural supplies, especially of chemical fertilizer, large quantities of which had been placed at the disposal of one of the supporters of a candidate. The candidate's opponents were either deprived of their share or given a very negligible amount.

3. Teachers were threatened with dismissal or forfeiture of their salaries and students were threatened with being barred from entrance examinations to the Education Ministry's teacher training programs if they did not show a preference for the favored candidate. (This was affirmed by the National Investigation Council and carried in its report No 1/17946 dated 1.9.1367 [22 November 1988].

This was also affirmed by some local notables and high-level officials from the Kuhdasht District whose names have been incorporated in the report. In addition, two to three cases have been confirmed and notarized by the supervisory head of the district and have been reported in a followup to the chief of the supervisory committee of the province.)

On the basis of the report by the appointed investigator, the services of the members of the Construction Jihad were extensively used at the election executive committees.

4. There were slowdowns and laxity at the polling stations in the constituencies during the day, causing the elections to be dragged on into the night in such a manner that supervision and control were taken out of officials' hands. Polling went beyond the legal duration, on occasion until midnight and even later, for a special purpose; that is, some people were directed to certain ballot boxes and a large number of others were banned from casting their votes.

Voting at some polling booths continued for more than 30 minutes to 7 hours after the appointed time for their closure. This has been mentioned in the reports by the appointed investigator and the chief of the district supervisory committee.

5. Nearly 400 election tariff [ta'refeh] papers with the election seal and signature of the district governor, in bundles of 100 each, were seized from the pockets of two motorcyclists. Samples of these are now at the office of the Central Supervisory Committee of the Council of Guardians. This has been particularly noted in the reports by the national investigator and by the chief of the supervisory committee of the province.

6. There were numerous ballot box violations: names of those voting for a particular candidate were taken down; identity cards of some of the people were not stamped; tariff papers were not duly stamped and signed for others, who were supporters of one of the candidates; some of the villages never received ballot boxes; and the names of some who did not vote for those they had promised to were written down. (This is noted in the reports of the various traveling investigators and in the Kuhdasht election dossier.)

It may be recalled that the difference in the votes cast for two rival candidates representing (?10) of the above constituencies was only 3,046.

Khomeyni's Daughter To Form Women's Association

LD1201090589 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni's daughter has applied to Interior Ministry for permission to form a women's association, reported the English daily TEHRAN TIMES on Thursday.

The daily quoting informed sources at the Interior Ministry said, "Mrs Zahra Mostafavi applied for permission to form the Women's Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The paper said that Mrs. Mostafavi has been active in the affairs of the Iranian women and last year she organized an international congress on women which was attended by 80 foreign guests.

"She has always emphasised that the women should better realize their rights and concentrate their efforts on regaining their denied rights," said the paper. It added that the society once formed is expected to draw a large number of Iranian women.

Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi in a statement last month said that those interested in formation of political parties, groups and associations could submit their applications to the ministry begining December 31. So far some 18 applications have been received by the ministry.

The law regulating formation of political parties was passed by the Majlis in the summer of 1981. However, due to war conditions such activities were stopped.

Engineers, Workers To Reopen Abadan Oil Refinery

LD1101132989 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Abadan, Jan. 11, IRNA—Abadan oil refinery men are back and working hard to reopen the world's largest oil refinery on schedule in the spring.

More than 6,000 engineers and workers, mostly Abadanis who were dispatched to other oil installations after the war, have returned to repair the site damaged soon after the Iraqi invasion in September 1980.

"Abadan oil refinery is a symbol. A symbol of the reconstruction movement in our country," said prime minister Hoseyn Musavi during a visit to Abadan. He was being accompanied by ministers of oil, finance, and mines and metals as well Khuzestan's governor general.

Khodarahm Bakhshandeh, the head of the refinery, was asked by Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh to mobilize former staff shortly after the 20 August ceasefire.

"We are trying to get equipment and parts from other refineries to reduce costs," Bakhshandeh said. Experts from Shiraz, Esfahan, Tehran, Tabriz and Bakhtaran refineries have joined the effort.

Repairing the huge plant, plus repair work at Bandar-e Mahshahr oil installations 100 kms east of Abadan, and the pipelines linking the two would cost an estimated dlrs 160 million in foreign exchange.

To buid a new refinery with a capacity of 200,000 barrels it would cost about dlrs 15,000 per barrel, Bakhshandeh said.

The refinery produced about 650,000 barrels of oil products per day before the outbreak of the war, meeting 60 percent of domestic demand.

It is scheduled to resume operation on Islamic Republic Day, 1 April, with an initial output of about 130,000 bpd. This will include 60,000 barrels of crude, 17,000 barrels of gasoline, 22,000 barrels of kerosine, 23,000 barrels of diesel fuel, and 7,800 of liquid gas.

"Work is going ahead very very quickly," said Ebrahim Hashemi a retired refinery official. "We are all going back." He said it was not possible to take their wives and children yet because of lack of facilities, though the Post Office, some banks and other public services have opened branches.

Thousands of people from the villages east of the Bahmanshir River, north of the city-port, have already gone back to their homes. "The trees and bushes have grown so much we can't get into our home," Hashemi said.

Imam Khomeyni Tuesday praised particularly the oil workers for their hardwork to keep the oil industry going despite numerous attacks by the Iraqi forces. "Indeed you have rendered the most valuable services to the Islamic revolution and your homeland under the most crucial conditions," he said in a reply to a letter from Aqazadeh regarding progress in the reconstruction of the oil industry.

ABRAR Editorial on Khomeyni Message Cited

LD1101191889 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—The Persian daily ABRAR said in an editorial Wednesday that the Iranians should be told to prepare for economic austerity ahead rather than be allowed to flatter themselves with unrealistic hopes for affluence. It recommended that the government be honest with the masses and tell them the truth about the most proper course in the future instead of allowing them to vacillate between a preference to indulge in affluence or adopt a more frugal life as a consequence of the eight-year Iraq-Iran war.

The daily said Imam Khomeyni's letter to Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh earlier in the week which also addresses itself to the nation is a good guideline for the proper course ahead.

The following is the text of the daily's editorial.

"The leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni, in his reply to oil minister this week appreciated the self sacrifice of all people involved in the oil industry during the imposed war, and in a portrayal of post-war policies called on Iran's Muslim people to hold out in their resistance in every area.

"In his report to the imam the oil minister had informed him of the status of the oil industry in Iran and requested the imam's advice on various aspects of the industry and his recommendations for its improvement.

"The imam's reply was a fresh emphasis on the nation's independence in the course of national reconstruction period and is an "order for resistance" under all circumstances. The order for resistance from Imam Khomeyni is issued at a time economic problems, insufficiency of foreign currencies, wartime destructions on the one side and expectations of the populace and the fixed eye of the world on Iran on the other is obvious more than any time in the past.

"The peculiar present-day circumstances have placed Iran on a border demarcating dependence from independence, and on a historical juncture capable of pitting the country into an abyss of dependence at the slightest faulty move which development will throw to the dust the fruits of ten years of the nation's industry, and the people's self-sacrifice and patience which have their roots in the beliefs and faith of the people.

"The imam's 'order for national resistance' which reflects on the people's capacity during the war years in the face of limited resources in every area, addressing oil industry workers saying in part 'at the most adverse circumstances our oil industry workers maintained oil production and oil export at its upmost level, and repaired all damages to underwater facilities as well as those on lands, and tried to improve the industry and its facilities on mountain tops in a manner surprising to many oil industry specialists. As the enemy uninterruptedly continued its attacks on us our oil production and its export did not halt for as little as one single day. I call on the same people to demonstrate to the world that they can turn the wheels of the country's industry by relying solely on their own capacity.'

"The guidance of the leader of the Islamic Revolution is based on the need for maintaining the country's independence. The people's capacity should in fact be the backbone of the national reconstruction effort, a people who did not quit even one moment in the course of the wartime. And they were a people who worked day in day out in order to provide for the needs of the war and for the daily needs of the people in towns, villages and cities.

"The efforts of oil industry workers during the wartime is indisputable. For provision of the needs of the country, the people owe it to oil industry workers at the critical wartime circumstances.

"Naturally the economic problems show themselves more prominently in the post-war period. Due to his intimate knowledge of those problems the imam pinpointed some of them, and warned government administrators against the conspiracies of internal and external agents of the big power enemies of Iran.

"The imam's order to the oil minister places an extra burden on the shoulder of the masses. We therefore propose that scenes from such cities as Abadan, Bakhtaran, Ilam, Sar Dasht, Susangerd and others be shown on the television so that the people at large will see what havocs have been wreaked in those cities, and so that we will see if there is one single Iranian who is not willing to contribute to the national construction.

"Let the damage to industries be demonstrated to the people, and we are confident that Iranians will rise, will tuck up their sleeves, will maintain themselves on a mere loaf of daily bread so that Iran will be rebuilt. To withhold facts from the people would be to allow for the propaganda campaign of our enemies, and give an opportunity to the counter-revolution for festering the air with its own sort of newsreports for the people.

"The people by their enlightenment will prevent government administrators from making hasty decision. The nation's independence has not been attained smoothly: It has cost the nation tens of thousands of martyrs, injured combatants, and billions of rials in expenditures. Let's be honest with the people rather than act otherwise whereby we would push them to a dilemma of indecision. The imam chose his way ten years ago, and maintaining the country's independence lies ahead of the road he took on that day.

"To reconstruct the nation would require the sincere effort of each and every citizen, and the 'order to resist' has now been issued. The masses love their leader and know him to be a concerned and knowledgable personality, and this time, too, they will respond to his order with their hearts since they know that the imam always sees beyond the immediate moment and that at critical junctures he guides them with his advices."

2 New Radio Transmitters in Yazd Operational

NC1101133889 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
31 Dec 88 p 11

[Excerpt] During a visit by the managing director of the Voice and Vision of Iran, two new radio transmitters of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran became operational in the (Fahraj) area of Yazd. They have strengths of 50 kilowatts and 10 kilowatts, respectively.

According to IRNA, these transmitters will reach most of the province, especially Bafq and Abarkuh. The new 50-kilowatt transmitter will relay national and local broadcasts for 21 hours daily, while the 10-kilowatt transmitter will broadcast theological lessons, Majlis debates, and Koran programs. These are now being carried by a 5-kilowatt transmitter, so the signal will be boosted.

According to this report, in addition to these two transmitters, a 1-kilowatt transmitter also began operating in Mahabad in order to boost the signal for Voice and Vision of Iran programs in this district. [passage omitted]

4 Transmitters To Begin Operation in Mashhad

NC1201112389 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
26 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] When the 10 Days of Dawn of the Islamic revolution is celebrated, four 10-kilowatt transmitters and one FM radio transmitter will become operational on the (Qolleh Zu) and (Kalat) heights.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ferdowsi-Pur, member of the Supervisory Council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is currently visiting Mashhad. He told an IRNA correspondent: The (Kalat) transmitter consists of four 10-kilowatt transmitters which will relay the first and second network programs of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the northern areas.

He said: These transmitters have been installed on the highest point of the (Qolleh Zu) and (Kalat) heights; this construction covers 75 meters [as published]. He added: A strong 2,000-kilowatt shortwave transmitter complex is also under construction in the Qasemabad area of Mashhad. It consists of four shortwave transmitters, each with a strength of 500 kilowatts. Two other transmitters to be installed there which will be beamed at 270 and 209 degrees for external broadcasts in order to boost the signals of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran programs to countries of the Middle East, parts of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, the northern USSR, the UAE in the Persian Gulf, Turkey, and Iraq.

He explained: This project's construction cost approximately 313 million rials. The project covers 33 hectares, 3,000 square meters of which are covered, and it has been equipped with power generators. He added: Four of its electrical pylons will be 80-100 feet high; this is the first time these have been manufactured in the country.

In conclusion, he announced that this powerful and massive transmitter project would become fully operational by the middle of the next [Iranian] year and added that the equipment for this transmitter had been purchased from Sweden and is due to arrive in the country soon.

Pakistan

Soviet Envoy on Improved Relations, Afghanistan

BK1201032889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan Viktor P. Yakunin has said his country will continue its efforts to establish better relations with Pakistan and to work for peace in Afghanistan. He was speaking at the Institute of International Affairs in Karachi yesterday evening on the priorities of Soviet foreign policy and prospects of Pakistani-Soviet relations. The ambassador said that with the advent of new leadership in Pakistan, the Soviets hope the solution to the Afghanistan issue will bring about an improvement of the political situation in the region.

Bhutto Returns From Pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia

BK1201112789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, returned to Islamabad this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. During her stay, she performed umrah [minor pilgrimage], visited Al-Madinah, and held talks with Khadim al- Haramayn al-Sharafayn [custodian of the two holy mosques] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on matters of common interest.

She was received at the airport, among others, by several federal ministers, members of the People's Party, and senior civil officials.

President Condemns Bomb Blast in Peshawar

BK1201025289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed deep anguish and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the bomb blast in Peshawar yesterday. Condemning this cowardly act of terrorism, the president expressed the hope that the government of NWFP will take every possible step to capture the culprits and give them their due punishment.

Sri Lanka

President's Proclamation on Ending Emergency Rule

BK1101122089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1150 GMT 11 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 11 (LANKAPUVATH)—The state of emergency which was in force for well over 5 years has been revoked with effect from midnight today, 11th January, 1989. President R. Premadasa, signed this morning, the proclamation revoking the state of emergency.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Defence further states in making this decision his excellency the president has taken into account the improving security situation. This situation in his opinion is due to the confidence the masses of this country have placed in themselves.

According to the existing regulations, if Part II of the Public Security Ordinance pertaining to state of emergency is to be reintroduced, it would be mandatory for Parliament to be summoned. Parliament in such an event has to meet within 10 days to debate the emergency regulations.

This would mean that the members of the Parliament which now stands dissolved would have to be recalled and they would continue to be members of Parliament until such time the general election is held. However, it is not his excellency's intention at present to resummon the dissolved Parliament.

The order issued by his excellency the president revoking the state of emergency is given below.

"Proclamation"

Know ye that, I, Ranasinghe Premadasa, president, by virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 2 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), as amended by Act No. 8 of 1959, Law No. 6 of 1978 and Act No. 28 of 1988, do by this proclamation revoke the proclamation made under the aforesaid Section 2 and published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 536/10 of December 13, 1988.

Given at Colombo on the eleventh day of January, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine.